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Arab envoy urges new U.N. action

UNITED NATIONS (R) — The Arab League representative here raised the prospect on Wednesday of a new appeal for Security Council action to Israel's continued repressive policy in the occupied territories. The official, Clovis Maksoud, also urged Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar to expedite a report on the violence in the West Bank and Gaza, which the council, in a resolution earlier this month, asked him to deliver by Jan. 20. Mr. Maksoud told a press conference it was time the Security Council went beyond the adoption of resolutions that deplored Israeli actions. He called for condemnation and ultimately the invoking of enforcement measures under the mandatory provisions of Chapter VII of the U.N. Charter. These could include sanctions against Israel. "There is a feasibility within the next few days of returning to the Security Council, to render its resolution not only credible but functional," he said. Mr. Maksoud said a key element in the current situation was Israel's insistence that its own laws were applicable in the territories and refusal to consider them occupied lands subject to international rules, including the Geneva conventions on the treatment of civilians in wartime.

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordan Press Foundation
جوردان تايمز يومية سياسية تصدر عن المؤسسة الصحفية الأردنية "الراي"

Happy New Year

The Jordan Times will not be published on Saturday, January 2, 1988, due to the New Year holiday on Friday. The next issue of the newspaper will appear on Sunday, January 3, 1988. The Jordan Times wishes its readers, advertisers and patrons a very happy and prosperous New Year.

Volume 12 Number 3668 AMMAN, THURSDAY DEC. 31, 1987 — FRIDAY JAN. 1, 1988, JAMADA AL AWWAL 9-10, 1408 Price: Jordan 100 fils; Syria 1 pound; Lebanon 1 pound; Saudi Arabia 1.50 riyals; UAE 1.50 dirhams; Great Britain 25 pence

Hawatmeh quits the Jordan Times; Khouri named editor

THE NEW YEAR brings in a change at the helm of the Jordan Times. George S. Hawatmeh, who edited the newspaper for the past five years, has resigned and is being replaced by Rami G. Khouri, veteran journalist and former editor of the Jordan Times. The change takes effect on Jan. 1, 1988.

Rifai meets association chiefs

AMMAN (Petra) — Prime Minister Zaid Rifai received separately on Wednesday a delegation of Jordanian Agricultural Engineers Association headed by President Tareq Al Tal, President of the Jordanian Engineers Association Ibrahim Abu Ayyash and members of the association board, President of the Jordanian Contractors Association Ali Abu Al Ragheb as well as President of the Jordanian Medical Association Mamdouh Al Abbadi.

Team to seek jobs for Jordanians in North Yemen

AMMAN (J.T.) — Prime Minister Zaid Rifai decided on Wednesday to form a ministerial delegation to seek employment opportunities for Jordanians in North Yemen. The delegation will comprise of representatives of the Civil Service Commission, and the ministries of health, public affairs and education. The main task of the delegation will be to seek jobs for Jordanian physicians, engineers and teachers in North Yemen. The Jordanian government has already offered to send Jordanian doctors, engineers and teachers to North Yemen and Sudan.

Arab council denounces Israel

AMMAN (Petra) — The general secretariat of the Arab Economic Unity Council on Wednesday called upon the Arab countries to take the necessary steps to support the steadfastness of the Palestinian people in the Israeli-occupied Arab territories. In a statement issued here, the council condemned the "brutal practices by the Israeli occupation authorities to suppress the Palestinian uprising." The statement also condemned the "show trials of the Palestinians arrested during the uprising and the arbitrary measures against the Palestinians in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip." The council urged international organizations to denounce and reject the Israeli measures which aim "at denying the Palestinians the right to express themselves and their rejection of the occupation."

Assad gets Soviet message

DAMASCUS (AP) — Soviet leader Mikhail S. Gorbachev has sent a letter to President Hafez Al Assad briefing him on the outcome of the superpower summit in Washington, the Syrian Arab News Agency (SANA) reported Wednesday. The letter was delivered Wednesday by Karen Brutents, deputy chairman of the International Relations Department at the Central Committee of the Soviet Communist Party, to Syrian Vice-President Abdul Halim Khaddam. Soviet Ambassador to Damascus Alexander Dzasokhov attended the meeting, SANA said. It said Mr. Khaddam was also briefed on the Dec. 7 summit between Mr. Gorbachev and U.S. President Ronald Reagan. The two leaders signed a pact eliminating intermediate-range nuclear missiles from their arsenals. The party daily Al Baath newspaper said Wednesday: "The two sides denounced Israel's inhuman practices and declared solidarity with the Arab peoples in their struggle against the Israeli occupation forces."

Defence lawyers boycott Israel's assembly-line trial of Palestinians

Israeli leaders debate extent and timing of expulsions

Combined agency dispatches

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM — Defence lawyers boycotted military trials of Palestinians by the Israeli occupation authorities to protest the "assembly-line" proceedings, while Israeli leaders appeared determined on Wednesday to expel at least some of the detained Arabs.

Israel's 10-member inner cabinet met to discuss the deportations and the possibility of renewed demonstrations on Friday, the 23rd anniversary of the founding of Fatah.

The army said a 17-year-old Palestinian from the occupied Gaza Strip also died of wounds suffered in a clash with soldiers last week, bringing the officially announced death toll in recent protests to 23 and provoking a protest at the Jabalya refugee camp.

After the inner cabinet meeting, the ministers refused to talk to reporters. Shmuel Goren, Israeli "coordinator" in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, said a decision was pending.

"The matter of expulsions isn't finished, isn't agreed," he said. "I'll just repeat what the defence minister said — that expulsions are one of the means we deploy in the fight against disturbances."

The Jerusalem Post reported that Palestinians were especially concerned that Israel would try to expel nine Palestinians arrested on Tuesday. The newspaper said they were known for their links with Palestinian organizations.

On the fourth day of swift trials in the occupied territories, dozens of Palestinians were again transported to military courts to face charges of "rioting."

Israel army radio said 80 detainees were brought before judges. A few were sentenced to three-month jail terms for stone-throwing but most cases were postponed, the radio said.

Defence attorney Jawad Boulous said lawyers were not being allowed to see their clients before trial or to know if they had been interrogated or had made any admissions.

But it was unclear at the military court in the West Bank town of Nablus on Wednesday which of 48 detainees had tried and failed to hire counsel. At least three defendants appeared in court with a lawyer.

Israel denies defendants' rights have been abused.

"They simply prevented us from defending our clients, from studying the files, appearing in their names, interviewing them, knowing if they pleaded innocent or if they were questioned," Mr. Boulous said.

"These conditions have brought us to the conclusion we cannot be lawyers, maybe paper shufflers, but not lawyers, so we

(Continued on page 3)

Junblatt says scuttled Damascus pact remains acceptable formula for peace

By Lamis K. Andoni
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — On the eve of the second anniversary of the signing of a "historic" Syrian-brokered accord among Lebanon's three major factions, the leader of the predominantly Druze Progressive Socialist Party (PSP), Walid Junblatt, said Wednesday that the agreement was still an acceptable formula for a national reconciliation in the strife-torn country.

"The accord remains one of the acceptable formula to us," Mr. Junblatt told the Jordan Times in an interview here.

The Damascus agreement, which was signed by Mr. Junblatt, Shi'ite Amal militia leader Nabih Berri and Eli Hobeika, who then headed the right-wing "Lebanese Forces," called for limiting the Maronite president's powers and increasing the representation of other sects in government.

The accord, reached on Dec. 29, 1985, was opposed and scuttled by Lebanese President Amin Gemayel and by the Maronite-dominated Falangist Party.

According to Mr. Junblatt, there could never be an end to the civil war unless Lebanon cease to be ruled by "a foreign-



Walid Junblatt

influenced party which represents the interests of four per cent of the people." He accused the Falangist Party of falling under Israeli and American influence. "The Falangist Party's interests are linked with those of Israel and the U.S., and this is unacceptable," he said. But he said he was ready to agree on a compromise formula that could end the war and bring about changes in Lebanon.

He said such acceptable formula include the formation of a senate to be the highest legislative body in the country representing all the sects in Lebanon.

(Continued on page 5)

Lebanese pilot defects to Shouf

AMMAN (J.T.) — Lebanese Progressive Socialist Party (PSP) leader Walid Junblatt told the Jordan Times on Wednesday that a Lebanese air force pilot had defected from Adma air base in north Lebanon. Mr. Junblatt, who is currently visiting Amman, noted that Adma was the air base where helicopter of late Lebanese Prime Minister Rashid Karami landed before flying onto Tripoli and crashed on its return flight killing Mr. Karami earlier this year.

Lebanese police said the air force officer seized a missile-equipped helicopter while on a routine mission and landed in a Druze-controlled area southeast of Beirut.

A police spokesman said in Beirut Majid Karamah took off from the Adma air base on a "routine training mission" at 9:30 a.m.

"The air base lost control with Karamah about 10 minutes later. Radar surveillance shows that he landed the helicopter in the Shouf area," added the spokesman.

The Shouf mountains, south-east of Beirut, are controlled by the PSP.

Crown Prince returns after extensive talks in Turkey

Evren receives message from His Majesty

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan returned home Wednesday after a two-day official working visit to Turkey where he held talks with senior Turkish officials on recent developments in the region and delivered a verbal message from His Majesty King Hussein to Turkish President Kenan Evren dealing with the outcome of the Nov. 8-11 extraordinary Arab summit held in Amman.

The Jordan News Agency, Petra, said Mr. Evren and Prince Hassan also reviewed the recent developments in the Palestinian issue and the Iran-Iraq war and international efforts to implement U.N. Security Council Resolution 598 which calls for an immediate ceasefire in the war.

Also discussed during the meeting was Israel's "iron fist" policy against the Palestinians living in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Reuters, quoted a Turkish Foreign Ministry spokesman as saying that Prince Hassan conveyed to President Evren Jordan's views "on the establishment of wide and effective cooperation both politically and economically within the region."

Bilateral ties and means of further strengthening them were also discussed by Prince Hassan and President Evren.

President Evren reiterated his country's backing and support for Jordan's efforts for peace in the Middle East through holding of an international peace conference attended by all parties concerned.

Riyadh softens stand on Iran in return for GCC backing for U.N. peace efforts

RIYADH (Agencies) — Saudi Arabia has softened its hard line on Iran in return for firm backing by other Gulf Arab states of United Nations efforts to end the Iran-Iraq war, diplomats say.

They said Saudi Arabia, as new president of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC), was committed to speak on behalf of all six members and two of them, the United Arab Emirates (UAE) and Oman, had good relations with Iran.

Diplomats said Saudi soft-pedalling on Iran was also in response to Syrian efforts to cool tensions between Tehran and the GCC. Syrian Foreign Minister Farouq Al Sharaa visited Riyadh and Tehran during the four-day summit which ended on Tuesday.

"The ball is now in Iran's court. It is the interest and hope of all Arab states that Iran respond to the call of peace," Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Saud Al Faisal said at the close of the summit.

Relations between Iran and Saudi Arabia deteriorated after violent clashes between Iranian pilgrims and Saudi police which killed hundreds of people in the Holy City of Mecca last July.

Iran has intensified attacks on ships using Gulf ports and Kuwait accused Tehran of firing seven Silkworm missiles at its territory since September.

Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, the UAE, Oman, Qatar and Bahrain set up the GCC in 1981, six months after the Iran-Iraq war began.

Saudi King Fahd Ibn Abdul Aziz opened the summit on Saturday with balanced pleas and warnings to Tehran not to spread the war to its neighbours.

The GCC summit final communiqué avoided harsh criticism of Iran but strongly urged the United Nations to enforce its Security Council Resolution 598 ordering a Gulf war ceasefire.

King Fahd called Iran a sister country but he warned that force would not end the Gulf conflict and could bring unwelcome foreign powers into the region.

"Force is no longer the final decisive factor. Each country ...



His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan meets with Turkish Prime Minister Turgut Ozal in Ankara

and the five permanent members of the U.N. Security Council.

The Turkish leader also expressed support for all efforts being exerted to end the Iran-Iraq war and pointed out that the situation in the Gulf had become a big danger to the whole region if the war continued.

The meeting was attended by Foreign Minister Taher Al Masri and his Turkish counterpart as well as Jordan's ambassador to Turkey.

On Tuesday, Prince Hassan and Turkish Prime Minister Turgut Ozal held talks during which the Crown Prince briefed the Turkish leader on the outcome of the Arab summit held in Amman and the efforts made by Jordan to unify Arab ranks in the face of challenges and dangers facing the Arab Nation.

The two sides stressed the need

for further strengthening relations between the two countries.

On the political level, the two sides agreed on the need for continuing coordination to end the Gulf war and enforce U.N. Resolution 598.

The talks also dealt with the uprising of Arab citizens in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

The two sides agreed that the uprising was a result of the suffering of Arab citizens under Israeli occupation which reached a high level and made it very necessary to find a just solution to the Palestinian problem.

The two sides also discussed means to find a joint constructive mechanism for a conference of Islamic foreign ministers due to be held in Amman in March.

(Continued on page 3)

Iraq and Iran report battle on central front

BAHRAIN (Agencies) — Iraq and Iran on Wednesday reported a battle on their central war front.

Tehran Radio said Revolutionary Guards launched a limited attack on Iraqi forces early on Wednesday near the border town of Mehran, 160 kilometres east of Baghdad.

The radio said "destructive operations" caused a large number of Iraqi casualties. The guards seized prisoners and equipment, it said.

The Iraqi News Agency (INA) said Iraqi forces repulsed a company-sized Iranian "attempt to approach a forward barrier in the central sector." Most of the Iraqis were killed and the rest fled, INA said.

Iraq also said its warplanes attacked a ship off Iran as the toll grew in the worst month of the "tanker war."

Lloyds said there have been at least 447 attacks or cases of war damage to vessels in the Gulf since the war started in 1980, with 178 incidents this year alone.

may seek the help of other countries and she is rightly and legally entitled to do so," the king said.

Prince Saud told reporters on Tuesday the Gulf states "wish to have good relations with Tehran based on mutual respect and non-interference in internal affairs."

Conference sources said Syria had told Iran it objected to its attacks on ships in the Gulf. Mr. Sharaa brought a message to King Fahd from Syrian President Hafez Al Assad on Saturday and visited Tehran on Monday.

The sources, quoted by Reuters, said the GCC now wanted to give peace another chance and to wait for the outcome U.N. efforts to enforce its July 20 ceasefire order.

Iraq said it would obey the U.N. order if Iran complied. Iran insists Iraq should first be condemned as the aggressor.

Prince Saud said the GCC was sending envoys to the five permanent members of the U.N. Security Council to urge it to implement Resolution 598.

Conference sources said the GCC would seek to convince

Moscow to support sanctions against Iran if Tehran failed to obey the ceasefire call.

While prodding the permanent Security Council members to take action to bring about a ceasefire, the leaders made no specific reference to U.S. calls for an arms embargo on Iran if it fails to accept the peace effort.

On the surface, Moscow appears to have abandoned its resistance to Washington's call for an embargo to follow the resolution of last summer calling for a ceasefire in the Iran-Iraq war. Last week, the Soviet Union and the 14 other members of the Security Council joined to state their readiness to draft such sanctions.

But the Soviet position remains murky, according to American officials, because Soviet officials have been saying different things to different governments about whether Moscow intends to make its approval of an embargo contingent on the creation of a United Nations naval unit in the

(Continued on page 3)

German hostage to be freed soon, magazine says

IRA team to negotiate Irishman's release

BEIRUT (AP) — West German hostage Rudolf Cordes will be freed soon in return for a "serious promise" that Lebanese suspect Mohammad Ali Hamadei will be released from German custody, the weekly magazine Ash Shira reported Wednesday.

The magazine, in another report, said that two delegates from the Irish Republican Army (IRA) have arrived in Muslim west Beirut to negotiate the release of Irish hostage Brian Keenan.

The magazine gained international fame in 1986 when it broke the story of secret U.S. arms sales to Iran. However, its recent reports on the 21 foreigners missing in Lebanon have not been accurate.

"An agreement is expected to be reached soon to release German hostage Rudolf Cordes in return for a serious promise that Lebanese suspect Mohammad Ali Hamadei would be released from Germany's prisons after a while,"

possession of explosives.

Keenan, 35, of Ormeau Road, Belfast, an English language teacher at the American University of Beirut, was kidnapped on April 11, 1986. No group has claimed his abduction.

The 21 foreigners missing and believed kidnapped in Lebanon since 1985 are: eight Americans, four Frenchmen, three Britons, a West German, an Irishman, an Italian, an Indian and two unidentified foreigners.

American Terry Anderson, chief Middle East correspondent for the Associated Press, is the longest-held hostage. He was kidnapped on March 16, 1985.

Anglican Church envoy Terry Waite is among the missing Britons. He disappeared on Jan. 20 in west Beirut while on a mission to negotiate with hostage-holders. No group claimed his abduction.

Carlucci to visit Gulf

WASHINGTON (R) — U.S. Defence Secretary Frank Carlucci will visit Kuwait, Saudi Arabia and Bahrain on a week-long tour of the Gulf starting on Sunday, a Pentagon official has said.

Mr. Carlucci, on his first trip to the area since replacing Caspar Weinberger as Defence Secretary last month, will also visit U.S. ships, the official told reporters.

Mr. Carlucci said in a television interview last week that his trip was to prepare for advising President Reagan on the military structure needed to fulfil the U.S. mission in the Gulf.

American warships have since last July escorted 22 convoys of U.S.-flagged Kuwaiti ships through the waterway to protect them against attacks by Iran.

In the so-called tanker war, the Iranians singled out Kuwaiti ships for attack because of its support for Iraq, Tehran's enemy in the seven-year-old Gulf war.

The Reagan administration said it initiated the escort operation to maintain freedom of navigation in the Gulf and prevent domination of the waterway by Iran and the Soviet Union.

The United States lent its support

Ghali flies to Sudan after Kenya visit

NAIROBI (R) — Egypt's Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Butros Ghali flew to Khartoum on Wednesday after talks in Ethiopia, Kenya and Uganda aimed at ending the civil war in Sudan.

All three states border southern Sudan, where guerrillas of the Sudan People's Liberation Army

(SPLA) are fighting for the country's black and non-Muslim minority to be given a bigger say in central government.

An Egyptian embassy spokesman said Dr. Ghali met Kenyan President Daniel Arop Moi in Nairobi on Wednesday to discuss the situation in the southern Sudan.

"It was an exchange of views aimed at coordinating peace efforts," he said.

Earlier this week, Dr. Ghali held talks in Ethiopia, which Sudan accuses of being the SPLA's main backer, and Uganda, which borders Sudan to the south.

Dubai officials question deported Iranians

DUBAI (R) — The Gulf emirate of Dubai on Wednesday stayed its hand in deporting a group of Iranians who threatened to commit suicide if forced to return home.

A senior security official said authorities were questioning the eight, who were bundled kicking and screaming aboard a Yugoslav Airlines flight from Belgrade to Dubai on Tuesday.

"Nothing has been decided yet."

An investigation is under way," he told Reuters.

One immigration official said the group, including a pregnant woman and a four-year-old child, would not be forced to go back to Iran.

"If these people won't go to Iran, he won't make them," he said.

Immigration officials had said soon after the deportees reached Dubai that they would probably

be put on an Iran Air plane back to their homeland.

Security officials said at least two of the group had previously lived in Dubai, but no longer had valid visas.

A spokesman for the group told Reuters by telephone in Belgrade that four men among the deportees left Iran five years ago to escape being conscripted to fight in the Iran-Iraq war.

Israelis pass quick sentences on protesters

By Glenn Frankel

OCCUPIED GAZA CITY — Military "justice" ground swiftly on Dec. 28 in army Judge Moshe Shefi's courtroom in the military compound on As Siraya Street.

The 16 Palestinian defendants, dressed in blue prison garb and accused of participating in the protests that wracked the occupied Gaza Strip and West Bank for two weeks, came in eight at a time. As the military prosecutor intoned the charges in Hebrew, a soldier translated them into Arabic. All but one defendant pleaded guilty — some after complaining that they had been beaten by soldiers.

There were no witnesses other than the defendants and no defence lawyers — they were on strike, protesting the way the trials are being run. Most of the cases took about 10 minutes to complete, some less than three.

But there seemed to be two kinds of military justice being meted out on Dec. 28. In Nabulus on the West Bank, 35 of 37 defendants pleaded not guilty and had their cases postponed. All had lawyers and Judge Yehoshua Halevy criticised the army's preparation of the cases, calling the whole procedure "a mess."

In reaction to the trials, in-

formed sources said, U.S. Ambassador Thomas Pickering told Israeli Defence Minister Yitzhak Rabin that the United States plans to send diplomatic observers to some of the military hearings.

Saying that Washington remains concerned about possible human rights violations in the cases stemming from the protests, Mr. Pickering said a Hebrew-speaking diplomat from the U.S. embassy in Tel Aviv and an Arabic-speaking diplomat from the U.S. consulate in Jerusalem will jointly observe some of the trial proceedings, the sources said.

Sentences were uniform. Those convicted of throwing stones at soldiers drew three months in prison and \$650 fines; those convicted of simply participating in an illegal demonstration were given 20-day sentences and \$200 fines.

So it went throughout the day as Israel's military court system shifted into high gear to cope with trying the more than 900 Palestinians arrested during the security crackdown in which 23 Palestinians were shot dead.

But Judge Halevy, in Nabulus, complained to the army that files were missing and witnesses were not ready. The number of postponements there means a backlog

that military officials concede will defeat their goal of swift sentences for the maximum deterrent effect.

Not so in Gaza, where the courts moved with assembly-line dispatch. Of 57 Palestinians brought before the courts, 46 pleaded guilty and received sentences ranging from 20 days to three months, the army said. There were no lawyers present and family members held a vigil outside the compound because most were not allowed inside although many seals were empty.

The differences in part reflected in the profiles of the two regions and in the personalities of their Israeli military commanders. The \$80,000 Gazans are part of the Third World; impoverished, isolated from the rest of the Arab World, increasingly fundamentalist in religious orientation and poorly educated. The \$50,000 Arabs of the West Bank are generally better trained, more sophisticated and more affluent. They stand more on their rights, lawyers there say, and are less intimidated Israeli courts and military authorities.

Israeli military officials say Palestinian defendants have the right to a lawyer but that there is no legal requirement that they be given one — The Washington Post.

Iran reportedly to supply chemical arms to Libya

LONDON (Agencies) — Iran has agreed to supply Libya with chemical weapons in exchange for advanced Soviet-made SCUD-B missiles, a newspaper reported Wednesday.

The Independent, a London daily, quoted unidentified sources in Tehran and the Libyan capital of Tripoli as saying the deal was signed during a recent visit to Tripoli by Moshen Rafiq-Dost, minister of Iran's Revolutionary Guards.

The paper quoted the sources as saying Iran has developed three new types of chemical mortar shells and rockets for use against ships, tanks and troops.

The Independent said that according to the sources, Libya wants the anti-tank and anti-aircraft chemical warheads for use in its war with Chad.

In return, the newspaper said, Iran would receive a dozen medium-range SCUD-B missiles. It said these were the type of missiles used by the Iranians in the past to attack Baghdad, the

Iraqi capital.

In 1983, Iran acquired SCUD-B missiles from Libya, but there were reports then that Moscow was annoyed with Libya for delivering the missiles to Iran without first clearing the deal with the Kremlin.

The newspaper report by correspondent Safa Haeri said news of the deal came after Hussein Musavi, Iran's prime minister, told parliament on Sunday that Iran was producing sophisticated chemical weapons.

Iranian media quoted Mr. Musavi as saying Iran would not use such weapons, banned under a 1925 Geneva Treaty, unless forced to by Iraq.

The media also quoted Mr. Musavi as saying Iran has begun manufacturing fighter aircraft.

Mr. Musavi also was quoted by Iranian media as saying Iran is producing copies of the U.S.-designed Tow anti-tank missile, Katyusha surface-to-surface rock-

ets and remote-controlled pilotless reconnaissance planes.

Iranian officials began claiming Iran is nearing self-sufficiency in arms production after the U.N. Security Council threatened earlier this year to impose an arms embargo against Tehran unless it agrees to a cease-fire.

The Independent said Mr. Musavi's speech during a budget debate Sunday appeared to be aimed at "talking up" Iran's military capabilities in advance of a widely anticipated winter ground offensive against Iraq.

The New York Times on Thursday quoted U.S. officials as saying Libya appeared to have provided Iran with Soviet-made missiles in exchange for chemical weapons and that Libya had on one occasion tried to use these in Chad without success.

The newspaper said the Reagan administration suspected Libya was building a plant to produce "its own chemical weapons, and one official was quoted as saying Libya might use

chemical weapons widely if its war with Chad flared up again.

Mr. Musavi on Wednesday denied his country was producing the outlawed chemical weapons, the official Islamic Republic News Agency (IRNA) reported.

"The Islamic Republic is capable of manufacturing chemical weapons and possesses the technology. But we will produce them only when Islam allows us and when we are compelled to do so," Mr. Musavi told reporters after a cabinet meeting Wednesday.

Mr. Musavi was quoted by IRNA, which is monitored in Nicosia, on Sunday as saying Iran is producing "sophisticated offensive chemical weapons" but will not deploy them unless necessary.

Mr. Musavi, asked about reports that the Gulf Cooperation Council might send an envoy to discuss peace efforts with Tehran, said: "There have been some talks in this regard and messages have been sent so far."

TV & RADIO

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| 15:30 | Programme Review |
| 15:55 | Cartoons and children's programmes |
| 16:20 | Children's Science Programme |
| 17:15 | Children's Life (Local) |
| 17:20 | Arabic Series |
| 19:25 | World News Reports |
| 19:50 | Programme review |
| 20:00 | News in Arabic |
| 20:30 | Arabic series |
| 21:30 | Local varieties programme |
| 22:30 | Arabic film |
| 23:10 | News summary in Arabic |
| PROGRAMME TWO | |
| 18:00 | Rue Carnot |
| 18:30 | French Varieties |
| 19:00 | News in French |
| 19:15 | Varieties |
| 19:30 | News in Hebrew |
| 19:45 | Varieties |
| 20:00 | News in Arabic |
| 20:30 | TV Censored Clippings |
| 21:30 | Alfred Hitchcock |
| 22:00 | News in English |
| 22:30 | Feature film: "Gentlemen Prefer Blondes" |
| 23:55 | Varieties |
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| 07:30 | Newsdesk |
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| 09:00 | Morning Show Cont. |
| 10:00 | Country Music |
| 11:00 | News in English |
| 11:30 | News in Arabic |
| 12:00 | News Summary |
| 12:30 | News Summary |
| 13:00 | News Summary |
| 13:30 | Pop Session |
| 14:00 | News Bulletin |
| 14:30 | Discovering Music |
| 15:00 | Concert Hour |
| 15:30 | News Summary |
| 16:00 | News Bulletin |
| 16:30 | Instrumentals |
| 17:00 | Old Favourites |
| 17:30 | 30 Years of American Top Twenties |
| 18:00 | News Summary |
| 18:30 | Special Feature |
| 19:00 | Music |
| 19:30 | Newsdesk |
| 19:50 | Date with a Star |
| 20:00 | Evening Show |
| 22:00 | Varieties |
| 23:00 | News summary in Arabic |
| 23:10 | Varieties cont. |
| PROGRAMME TWO | |
| 17:15 | French film |
| 19:15 | News in French |
| 19:30 | "Le Monde Selon Georges" |
| 19:45 | News in Hebrew |
| 20:00 | Varieties |
| 20:30 | News in Arabic |
| 21:30 | Nothing Is Easy |
| 22:00 | Moonlighting |
| 22:30 | News in English |
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| Tel: 73111-19 | |
| 07:00 | Light Music |
| 07:30 | Newsdesk |
| 08:00 | Morning Show |

WHAT'S GOING ON

| TODAY'S EVENTS | |
|---|--|
| EXHIBITIONS | |
| ★ An art exhibition by Samir Mashah at the Spanish Cultural Centre - Jabel Amman (until Dec. 31). | |
| ★ An art exhibition entitled "The Architect of Mamluk Jerusalem" at the Jordan National Gallery of Fine Arts in cooperation with the British Council (until Dec. 30). | |
| ★ An exhibition of photos and documents about the Great Arab Revolt at the Royal Cultural Centre. | |
| INDIAN FILM WEEK | |
| ★ An Indian film week at the Royal Cultural Centre daily at 6:00 p.m. (Dec. 26 - 31). | |
| CULTURAL CENTRES | |
| Royal Cultural Centre - Tel. 6610267 | |
| American Centre - 644371 | |
| American Cultural Library - 641520 | |
| British Council - 6361478 | |
| French Cultural Centre - 637083 | |
| Goethe Institute - 641093 | |
| Soviet Cultural Centre - 644303 | |
| Spanish Cultural Centre - 634977 | |
| Jabal Amman Library - 634111 | |
| Husseini Youth City - 667816 | |
| Y.W.C.A. - 641793 | |
| Y.W.M.C.A. - 641251 | |
| Univ. of Jordan Library - 643555 | |
| MUSEUMS | |
| "Children's Heritage and Science Museum." Fun and knowledge for all ages. Also a small planetarium at the Haya Arts Centre. Open all week 9:00 a.m. - 1 p.m. and 3:30 p.m. - 6:30 p.m. Closed on Friday. | |
| Fakhre Museum. Jewellery and costumes over 100 years old. Also mosaic from Madaba and Jerash (4th to 10th centuries). The Roman Theatre. Amman. Opening hours: 9:00 a.m. - 5 p.m. Year-round. Tel. 651760. | |
| Jordan Archaeological Museum. Has an excellent collection of the antiquities of Jordan. Jabal Al Qal'a (Citadel Hill). Opening hours: 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. (Fridays and official holidays 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.). | |
| CHURCHES | |
| St. Joseph Church (Roman Catholic) Jabal Amman. Tel. 634590. | |
| Church of the Annunciation (Roman Catholic) Jabal Lawweidbeh. Tel. 637441. | |
| De la Salle Church (Roman Catholic) Jabal Lawweidbeh. Tel. 637441. | |
| Terrasanta Church (Roman Catholic). Jabal Lawweidbeh. Mass in Italian language, meet every Saturday at 5:30 p.m. Tel. 623600. | |
| Church of the Annunciation (Greek Orthodox) Abdali. Tel. 623541. | |
| Anglican Church (Church of the Redeemer) Jabal Amman. Tel. 625383. | |
| Armenian Catholic Church Ashrafieh. Tel. 711331. | |
| Armenian Orthodox Church Ashrafieh. Tel. 775261. | |
| St. Ephraim Church (Syrian Orthodox) Ashrafieh. Tel. 711751. | |
| Amman International Church (Interdenominational) meets at Southern Baptist School in Shmeisani. Tel. 677534. | |
| Evangelical Lutheran Church (Church of the Good Shepherd) Amman. Arab. Service: Sunday 7 p.m. Rev. N. Smir. Tel. 811295. | |
| Rainbow Congregation (meets at the Good Shepherd's Church) Jabal Lawweidbeh. Tel. 623600. | |
| English Service: Saturday 6:30 p.m. Tel. 822485. Rev. Veli. | |
| The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints (Mormons) Tel. 815817. | |
| CLOSED TUESDAYS | |
| Martyrs' Memorial (Military Museum): Collection of military memorabilia dating from the Arab Revolt of 1916, Sports City, Amman. Closed Tuesdays 10:00 a.m. - 1 p.m. Closed Saturdays. Tel. 664240. | |
| SERVICE CLUBS | |
| The Amman Lions Club. Meetings every first and third Wednesday at the Regency Palace Hotel. 7:30 p.m. Lions Philadelphi Club. Meetings every second and fourth Wednesday at the Amman Hotel. 7:30 p.m. Philadelphia Rotary Club. Meetings every Wednesday at the Holiday Inn. 1:30 p.m. Royal Automobile Club. Jabal Amman. Eighth Circle. Tel. 816534. 817534. | |

FOR THE TRAVELLER

| QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT | |
|---|-------------------------|
| This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) information department at the Queen Alia International Airport Tel. (08) 532005, where it should always be verified. | |
| ARRIVALS | |
| ROYAL JORDANIAN FLIGHTS (Terminal 1) | |
| 09:15 | Agaba (RJ) |
| 09:30 | Cairo (RJ) |
| 09:30 | Kuwait (RJ) |
| 09:30 | Jeddah (RJ) |
| 09:30 | Dhahran (RJ) |
| 09:30 | Doha, Bahrain (RJ) |
| 10:00 | Dubai, Abu Dhabi (RJ) |
| 17:35 | New York, Vienna (RJ) |
| 18:00 | Athens (RJ) |
| 18:15 | London, Geneva (RJ) |
| 18:45 | Bucharest, Larnaca (RJ) |
| 19:45 | Rome (RJ) |
| 23:55 | Baghdad (RJ) |
| OTHER FLIGHTS (Terminal 2) | |
| 12:05 | Cairo (MS) |
| 12:10 | Abu Dhabi, Bahrain (GF) |
| 13:40 | Kuwait (RJ) |
| 14:30 | Isfahan, Ankara (TK) |
| 15:00 | Riyadh (SV) |
| 15:30 | Baghdad (IA) |
| 18:20 | Amsterdam (KL) |
| 18:25 | Cairo (MS) |
| 19:15 | Frankfurt (LH) |
| 00:25 | London, Cairo (BA) |
| DEPARTURES | |
| ROYAL JORDANIAN FLIGHTS (Terminal 1) | |
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| 08:30 | Bucharest (RJ) |
| 08:45 | Larnaca, Rome (RJ) |
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Chamber of Commerce elects new president

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Khaldoun Abu Hassan became president of the Amman Chamber of Commerce after a landslide victory in Tuesday's elections in which 39 other candidates competed, it was officially announced early Wednesday. Eleven of the candidates won the chamber's 11 board of directors seats.

Mr. Abu Hassan secured 322 votes to win the top chamber post, followed by: Marwan Kharfan with 229 votes; Dr. Abdul Noor Habaybeh (206 votes); Mr. Ziad Homs (200 votes); Mr. Ali Sa'ad (167 votes); Mr. Khaled Kana'an (164 votes); Mr. Wasef Azar (146 votes); Mr. Hassan Haj Hassan (209 votes); Mr. Mohammad Inbeh (182 votes); Mr. Ahmad Taher (171 votes); Mr. Abdul Ilah Tabba' (158 votes); and Mr. Hassan Mifteh with 158 votes.

There were 490 industrial institutions voting out of a registered total of 531.

It was the highest turnout ever for a Chamber of Commerce election, and Mr. Abu Hassan was the first candidate to achieve such a significant winning margin — 93 votes over those of runner-up Mr. Kharfan.

Thirty-six of the candidates were running within three electoral blocs, and four were running independently.

The "industry family" bloc was led by Khaldoun Abu Hassan and included Khaled Kana'an, Wasef



Khaldoun Abu Hassan

Azar, Numan Asfour, Maan Shuqer, Ziad Homs, Marwan Kharfan, Ali Saad, Imad Shamma, Isahq Al Tebakhi and Saeed Darwazah.

The "action and development" bloc was led by Maan Dhabian and grouped Sultan Armouti, Abdul-ilah Tabba', Mohammad Gharybeh, Suleiman Baghdai, Khaldoun Talhout, Marwan Darwazah, Hassan Mifteh, Jack Khayyat, Hashem Hajjawi, Fawaz Shalan and Saleh Zaal.

The "union" bloc led by Hassan Haj Hassan grouped Mohammad Inbeh, Abbas Nabulsi, Tawfiq Abu Aita, Ahmad Taher, Abdul-Ghani Abdeen, Bassam Khalil Salem, Abdul Latif Qarini, Bashir Salameh, Sami Abdul Athim Sharawi, Mohammad Sinjeh, Safouh Ajaj and Ahmad Mukhaimar. Ramzi Haditheh withdrew from the election before the beginning of the voting.

Tighter controls imposed on chemical detergents

AMMAN (Petra) — The Ministry of Industry, Trade and Supply will take strict measures against complaints that manufacture of chemical detergents without licence from the ministry and without adhering to ministry specifications, according to an official statement issued here on Wednesday.

The statement followed a meeting at the Ministry of Industry, Trade and Supply attended by ministry officials and producers of chemical detergents, as well as representatives of the Amman Chamber of Industry.

The statement by Minister of Industry, Trade and Supply Rajai Muasher said that no factory will be allowed to produce chemical detergents without a proper licence from the ministry, and that

all chemical detergents on the market should comply with ministry specifications and carry the name of the manufacturers.

Dr. Muasher's statement said that those producers found violating the regulations will be liable for prosecution.

In addition, the statement said that all products manufactured without licence will be destroyed and the producing factory will be closed down.

It said that inspection teams from the ministry will be touring various plants as of February to ensure that they abide by ministry regulations.

The statement requested all factories to remove from the local market any of their products which are not properly licenced.

Prince meets Turkish leaders

(Continued from page 1)

They also agreed on intensifying cooperation in economic and technical fields.

Mr. Ozal accepted an invitation to visit Jordan. The date of the visit will be fixed later.

Prince Hassan, in a departure statement to reporters in Ankara, expressed hope that his talks with Turkish officials would further strengthen and boost cooperation with Turkey within the framework of wider Islamic cooperation within the Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC). He noted that Turkey would take part in the OIC foreign ministers

conference to be held in Amman in March.

The Crown Prince said he had exchanged with Turkish leaders views on issues of common concern, especially on the Gulf war and the uprising in the occupied Arab territories.

Prince Hassan said Jordan and Turkey stressed the need for implementing Resolution 598 to end the Gulf war.

The Crown Prince said that the current uprising in the occupied territories reaffirmed that the generation of young people who grew up under the Israeli occupation always rejected the occupation.

Riyadh softening stand

(Continued from page 1)

Gulf. Such a prerequisite, which poses practical problems and lacks American support, could result in protracted negotiations serving only to delay an embargo.

"They're coming closer to going ahead with it," an administration official said of the Soviet approach to an embargo. "But how close they are is not clear. One is not quite sure until we get down to the table." The detailed talks at the United Nations on drafting a resolution are expected to begin next month.

To the extent that a shift in the Soviet position has actually taken place, it may have resulted from Moscow's diplomatic problems in the region, American officials say. While the United States has been pressing since September for an embargo, the Soviets have

been preaching patience.

A State Department deputy spokeswoman said Tuesday that attention should be focused on the drafting and the implementation of a U.N. resolution for an arms embargo against Iran.

"We have stressed again that in our view emphasis must be focused on the follow-up resolution to ensure the compliance with 598," Phyllis Oakley said.

The United States would be willing to discuss "without commitment" the Soviet proposal for enforcement of an arms embargo, Oakley said. She stressed, however, that such discussion in no way would affect the U.S. position on the protection of U.S. shipping — which is that the U.S. navy is in the Gulf to preserve freedom of navigation, including the unimpeded flow of oil through the Strait of Hormuz.

Lawyers boycott 'trials'

(Continued from page 1)

decided not to take part in this whole game," he told Israel Radio in an interview broadcast on Wednesday.

Israeli forces, meanwhile, have made additional arrests in the past two days, the army said

Wednesday. Israeli newspapers reported dozens were detained, but army officials said "a few more" people were arrested.

The Jerusalem Post newspaper said five of the detainees had been released from Israeli jails in May 1985.

Third Jordanian dies of AIDS

By Abdullah Nsour

Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — A Jordanian citizen who had been receiving medical treatment for the disease AIDS (Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome) died a few days ago, raising to three the number of Jordanians to die of AIDS in 1987, the Ministry of Health said on Wednesday.

A ministry spokesperson said that the victim had been under medical care in one of the Health Ministry's hospitals, and was the first to die of the disease in this country.

The other two Jordanians who died of AIDS were a Frenchman of Jordanian origin, who died in France, and a woman who died in Syria. However, both were buried here.

The spokesperson declined to reveal the name of the third

victim, but noted that strict health measures were taken in the process of burying the body.

The Ministry of Health announced in October the discovery of 12 cases of AIDS in Jordan and said that eight of them were Jordanians. The other cases — all foreigners — have left the country, according to the ministry.

The spokesperson said that, at present, there are no AIDS cases in Jordan; but there are eight carriers of the disease, and these carriers are kept under strict medical surveillance.

"The Health Ministry has taken all precautionary measures to prevent the spread of the disease in the Kingdom and is taking extra care in dealing with stored blood and plasma," the spokesperson noted.

He said that all blood and vaccines imported from abroad

are being screened to ensure that they do not carry the AIDS virus and that all types of blood are being tested before being used for transfusions.

In addition, the ministry earlier announced the formation of a committee for supervising precautionary measures against AIDS. The committee is comprised of representatives from the Health Ministry, the Royal Medical Services, the Faculty of Medicine at the University of Jordan and the Jordanian Medical Association.

Health Minister Zaid Hamzeh attended in October an international conference on AIDS held in Paris and submitted a working paper on the subject, covering proposals for increasing public awareness of AIDS and for stopping the spread of the disease.

Jordan to take part in conference on agricultural policies in Arab World

AMMAN (J.T.) — Jordan will take part in a conference on coordinating agricultural policies in the Arab World due to open in Cairo on Jan. 10.

The three-day conference is expected to discuss the exchange of information on agriculture and ways to increase the volume of agricultural trade among Arab states, in an attempt to ensure food security in the Arab World, according to a spokesperson for the Ministry of Agriculture.

Agriculture Minister Marwan Hmoud will represent Jordan at the conference, which will be attended by delegates from 14 Arab countries, as well as a number of specialised Arab League

organisations.

In another development, Mr. Hmoud met here on Wednesday with Ghazi Abu Hassan, director-general of the Jordan Agricultural Marketing and Processing Company (JAMPCO). They discussed steps taken by the company towards purchasing for processing potatoes, onions and tomatoes from local producers, according to the Jordan News Agency, Petra.

Petra said that Mr. Hmoud and Mr. Abu Hassan also discussed the company's policy of concluding in advance deals with local farmers for the production of certain crops for export and for producing other crops which are

in demand in the country but in short supply at present.

In a statement earlier this month, Mr. Abu Hassan said that despite government efforts to increase food production in Jordan, the agricultural sector is still incapable of meeting the country's growing food needs.

He said in a lecture delivered at the University of Jordan that the government has been encouraging the work of farmers and assisting the agricultural sector through the successive five-year national development plans.

According to Mr. Abu Hassan, the country still suffers from shortages in certain crops and surpluses in others.

Preparations begin for exhibition in Riyadh

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Jordanian Commercial Centres Corporation (JCCC) has begun preparations for organising a Jordanian industrial exhibition in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia in March 1988, according to JCCC Director General Ghazi Diyab.

He said that the five-day fair will display a variety of Jordanian products from companies throughout the Kingdom.

The exhibition is aimed at promoting local industry and at offering Jordanian exporters the opportunity to conclude contracts

with Saudi importers, according to Mr. Diyab.

The JCCC director general told the Jordan Times that there will not be any direct selling of goods to the public during the March 24-29 exhibition, but that trade deals can be concluded.

Children choose Rambo dolls over educational games in Christmas spree

By Lamis K. Andoni

Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — A variety of dolls depicting Sylvester Stallone, the American movie star, in his role as "Rambo," the "Super American" fighter and Vietnam War veteran depicted in a series of popular movies, was the "hero" of Christmas shopping for children this year, according to a number of gift shop owners.

The 15-centimetre doll, priced at JD 5, comes in a bright, attractive package, and Rambo is dressed in rugged, glamorous, though sometimes torn, costumes which reveal his huge muscles.

"Rambo is the latest fashion here. We have just received it, and children just love it," a gift shop owner in Shmeisani told the Jordan Times this week.

While I was talking to him, two children between ages six and nine swept by me and, after a few moments, came back with four models of Rambo and two plastic machine guns. They dashed out of the shop in excitement while their trailing father had to find out from the salesperson how many Rambos his children bought.

"Rambo," the movie, was severely attacked by Arab movie critics when it was screened in the Arab World, not only for its violence, but for what was viewed as "distortion of the history of the Vietnam War." Arab movie critics noted, just as many of their Western colleagues before them, that "Rambo" completely ignored the American occupation of Vietnam and focused on what was portrayed by the producers as "a courageous, individual attempt to save innocent American prisoners of war who have been ruthlessly kept and savagely treated by the Vietnamese."

The critics also attacked the movie's glorification of individual abilities. But, as the Jordan Times found out, it is exactly this exaggeration of individual strength that attracts children the most.

"Rambo is great; he is very strong brave," said 11-year-old Fadi. When asked about the theme of the film, Fadi said that he could not remember, but he expressed a wish to be as strong as Rambo: "I would love to be just like Rambo if I could," he said, laughingly.

A shop owner blamed parents for not "guiding their children."

Asked why would he import such goods he answered: "This is business; I need to make profit." He said that children's attraction to Rambo "is temporary and will soon be replaced by another doll or game."

But children's fascination with Rambo is only part of their attraction to all war games and fighting instruments. For example, a glowing plastic sword and a decorated bow and arrow, very similar to the ones used by West German actor and former world body building champion Arnold Schwarzenegger in his movie "Conan the Barbarian," are also very popular in Jordan. The two instruments, according to shop owners, are attractive to both parents, who find them relatively reasonably priced at JD 1.5, and children, who find them "thrilling."

But heroes of war movies and their armaments are not the only of fascination of Jordanian children. According to gift shop owners, "there is always a high demand on war games and toy arms."

They said that while children seem to be extremely influenced by movies and videotapes, they also enjoy the war games. "One in particular, which is called 'Axis and Allies,' sells during all seasons," a salesperson said. The game is about an imaginary conflict between the forces of the Allies of the Second World War (The U.S., the Soviet Union, France and Britain) and the Axis forces (Nazi Germany, Fascist Italy and their supporters) to "control the world."

The shop owners interviewed by the Jordan Times indicated that they import such games because of their high profit potential, as the demand for educational and useful games "is relatively low." "Most parents who come here want toys which are easy and can occupy their children's time without demanding any effort from the mother or father to teach the game," noted a salesman in Shmeisani.

The salesman, however, pointed out that the advanced educational games are expensive. A good chemistry laboratory or an electric kit can cost about JD 25. "It is rather expensive, especially this year, because the buying power is considerably low-

er than the previous years," the salesman explained.

Nevertheless, in stores which cater to the affluent, expensive war games are still in demand. Both "Torpedo Wars" and "Shogun," priced between JD 20-25, are considered very popular. Store owners also noticed that most parents look for easy-to-operate toys rather than the ones which stimulate children's minds. "Battery-operated toys which can make simple moves or sounds are preferred by many parents to the special games which stimulate the mind," one store owner commented.

This does not apply, however, to toddlers' toys. According to salespeople interviewed, Jordanian parents buy their toddlers the special kinds of games and toys which develop the children's abilities to differentiate colours, shapes and sizes or to learn numbers and alphabets. "Many parents believe that once children go to school what they learn at school is enough, while toys are needed only for recreation and play," Michael, a young owner of a giftshop, said.

Despite this relatively low demand for educational games, some stimulating ones, like all sizes of puzzles and junior scrabble, are preferred by both children and parents. Reasons cited by salespeople are that they are reasonably priced and are enjoyable collective games.

As far as girls are concerned, the "queens" of dolls — Barbie and Cindy — remain on top of the list. This year, Cindy's fiancé, Mark, was introduced to Jordan's market, while Barbie received a new glamorous wardrobe. But, in one shop which tries to focus on educational games, a salesperson noted that this Christmas, "there was less demand on Barbie and Cindy than in previous years."

He said that mothers were more interested in drawing and knitting kits than dolls. "Children were also interested in these kits, which come in nice displays," he said. "Some children even preferred kits which teach decoration and other arts to cars and toys," he added. The owner of the shop was encouraged by the results, but said that the "interest is still in simple games rather than the more complex educational and stimulating games."

NAF aid in 1987 reaches thousands throughout Kingdom

AMMAN (J.T.) — The National Aid Fund (NAF) in 1987 distributed a total of JD 25,497 on a monthly basis to 10,061 families in the Amman region alone and contributed JD 6,503 towards the rehabilitation of 57 persons, according to an NAF bulletin issued on Wednesday.

The bulletin also said that JD 11,044 was provided for vocational training, and a total of JD 4,610 was distributed to needy families in the form of emergency aid.

According to the bulletin, cards entitling holders to receive free medical treatment were distributed to 153 poor people, and NAF teams conducted visits to 1,433 families to determine those in real need and to study their cases.

In addition, the bulletin said the NAF ceased financial assistance to 50 families which are now self-sufficient.

Last July, the NAF board

announced that an average of JD 200,000 was being spent monthly on improving the living conditions of needy people in the Kingdom. In September, the NAF said that JD 1,046,356 had been spent in the first six months of 1987 for the benefit of 10,000 needy families, numbering nearly 60,000 persons.

Upon its inception in 1986, the NAF announced that the government had allocated JD 1.5 million to provide assistance to the poor, and that this would be augmented by donations from various individuals, voluntary societies and organisations. The fund is governed by a board chaired by

Minister of Labour and Social Development Khaled Al Haj Hassan.

Mr. Haj Hassan chaired a board meeting at the start of 1987 and announced that needy people would be receiving JD 20 instead of JD 4 in monthly assistance. In addition, the board decided to offer assistance in the form of opening small businesses and farm maintenance workshops and to provide hearing aids or eyeglasses for those in need.

Mr. Haj Hassan also announced that the NAF had allocated JD 70,000 for conducting a survey to define the level of poverty in Jordan.

The minister said that the NAF is part of the national effort to achieve social justice and social security, which are essential in the drive to attain economic development and strengthen the concept of national belongingness.

Appointment of Sabbah seen as part of consistent Vatican policy

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Appointing the first Arab Latin (Roman Catholic) patriarch of Jerusalem a few days ago was the final step in a policy followed by the Vatican of selecting local priests to lead parishes and dioceses.

"The Vatican likes to give the local (religious authorities) responsibility for the parishes," said Reverend Father Mousa Adeli, the local leader from the country is essential to the smooth working of the parish. Citing an

example, he asked, "What is the use of putting an Arab bishop in the Philippines?"

Even though 65 out of the 78 priests in the Latin Patriarchate of Jerusalem are Arabs and 85 per cent of the 65,000 followers are also Arabs, it took until 1987 for the first Arab to be appointed patriarch. Since 1847, the Latin patriarch of Jerusalem, who is in charge of the diocese of Palestine, Cyprus and Jordan, has been of a foreign nationality, usually Italian.

Father Adeli explained that the Vatican waited until the diocese's work and its schools and missions were established before relinquishing the post to an Arab. "It was a step-by-step process," he said.

Parish priest Reverend Father Michel Sabbah, 54, replaced Italian Reverend Giacomo Giuseppe Beltritti, 77, who retired due to his age. Patriarch Sabbah, like most other patriarchs of Jerusalem, studied theology at the Beit Jala Seminary, which was

first located in Jerusalem.

Patriarch-designate Sabbah who was ordained in 1955, served as a director-general of the school run by the Patriarchate of Jerusalem and worked as a parish priest in Amman after studying Arabic literature in Beirut in 1963 and Arab philology in Paris in 1973. He is the current president of the Bethlehem University. Father Adeli, who studied with Patriarch-designate Sabbah at the seminary described him as an intelligent, very serious and a holy man.

The Vatican has no diplomatic relations with Israel due to the unresolved Palestinian question and the status of Jerusalem, which Israel has declared its "eternal and indivisible capital."

The Holy See has indicated the establishment of full diplomatic relations with Israel depends on the creation of a Palestinian homeland and international guarantees to protect Jerusalem as a city sacred to Christians, Muslims and Jews, alike.

ADVERTISEMENT THE HASHEMITE KINGDOM OF JORDAN JORDAN VALLEY AUTHORITY AMMAN - JORDAN

PREQUALIFICATION OF CONTRACTORS FOR CONSTRUCTION OF AL-WEHDAD DAM DIVERSION TUNNEL

The Jordan Valley Authority invites interested Jordanian contractors either individuals or in joint venture with Arab or international contractors to apply for prequalification to tender for the construction of a diversion tunnel for Al-Wehdah Dam project on the Yarmouk River in the north of Jordan which constitutes a major component of Al-Wehdah Dam project.

The work will include the construction of concrete-lined horse shoe shaped diversion tunnel with a diameter of (7.75) metres and a length of about (800) metres and intake and outlet portal structures.

Application for prequalification will be considered only from Jordanian contractors, either individuals or in joint venture with Arab or international contractors which are suitably qualified for this type of work. The Jordanian contractors should be registered at the Ministry of Public Works with Grade "A" qualifications in roads, water resources, excavation and civil works.

The prequalification document submitted shall include details of experience and past performance on similar projects. The capability of the contractors with respect to personnel, equipment, and plant and the contractors financial position.

Application for the prequalification will be issued against a non-refundable payment of JD 40 and will be available from Jan. 2, 1988 and should be submitted in two copies not later than Jan. 25, 1988.

The present schedule is to make the tender documents available to prequalified contractors on February 15, 1988, to arrange for a site visit by tenderers on March 1, 1988, to open the tenders, April 11, 1988 and to award the contract May 2, 1988. Construction will require about one year.

All correspondence shall be addressed to:

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Acting President
Jordan Valley Authority
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Telephone: 644525/
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Jordan Times

Tel: 667171-6

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1988: Test of resolve

THE beginning of the new year 1988 is posed to become a test of resolve between Israel and the international community over the issue of deportation of Palestinians arrested in the wake of the month-long uprising in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. Other punitive measures contemplated by Israel against the Arab inhabitants of the occupied territories — including mass arrests and summary trials devoid of basic legal norms and safeguards — are also at issue. Of particular interest is the fact that Israel and the United States appear to be at loggerheads over the issue of expulsion of Palestinians. Thus, the Israeli authorities seem determined to take on the whole world, including the U.S., over this issue and others related to its measures to quell the ongoing Palestinian revolt.

For Israeli Defence Minister Yitzhak Rabin to vow that the Israeli government is determined to expel Palestinians from the occupied territories despite U.S. and international protests is surely an act of defiance bordering on insolence. Rabin was caught saying that his government knows the U.S. position, but that it would nevertheless tell the U.S. that it has expelled, is expelling and would continue to expel Palestinians from the occupied territories, presumably till hell freezes over.

By its words and deeds, Israel should enter 1988 all the more isolated internationally. Its solo attempt to deny the applicability of the Fourth Geneva Convention to the West Bank and Gaza Strip has been rejected over and over again by the international community. Israel's further attempts to rewrite international law relevant to military occupation to suit its purposes have also been dealt powerful blows in international forums.

But above all, the year 1988 stands to witness a test of resolve between the Palestinians living in the occupied territories, who are determined to end the occupation, and the Israeli government, which is determined to perpetuate its subjugation of the Palestinian people. Still, while we know how the new year will begin, no one knows for certain how it will end. Foremost in the minds of all concerned is whether it will dawn on Israel, in the course of the new year, that its occupation of the Arab territories is at the root of the cycle of violence in the Middle East. If the new year can bring about this elusive feat, then it will qualify as "The Year" which advanced the cause of peace in the Middle East and throughout the world.

ARABIC PRESS EDITORIALS

Al Ra'i: Senate in total support

THE Upper House of Parliament yesterday unanimously endorsed a draft budget for 1988 which earlier won the unanimous approval of the Lower House. This all-out support by parliament to the government and its programmes represents genuine cooperation between the executive and legislative authorities in this country. The detailed discussion which preceded the voting on the budget reflects the awareness of the House's members about the country's needs and development requirements and also displays their sense of responsibility towards their country and countrymen. The members were unanimous in their total support for the King's endeavours on the Arab and international fronts and his relentless efforts to unify Arab ranks and rally the Arabs in the face of the common challenges and threats. There is no doubt that the King's endeavours before and after the Amman summit meeting are helping the Arab nation to forge ahead with joint action and true solidarity. The house members were all in total agreement in their call on the government to maintain its policy of extending support to the people in the occupied Arab land to enhance their steadfastness in the face of Israeli measures.

They were also unanimous in supporting the King's endeavours for convening an international conference on the Middle East. The Upper House, like the Lower House, supported all means for strengthening the armed forces and security services and government measures to bolster the national economy.

Al Dustour: Spirit of cooperation

IN his address to the Upper House of Parliament yesterday Prime Minister Zaid Rifai responded to all remarks made by the house members, giving further explanation of the government's plans and programmes in the coming year. Mr. Rifai reiterated Jordan's commitment to national causes the country's belief in integration with Arab countries, its openness to the outside world and co-existence with all friendly nations. The prime minister noted that Jordan has won worldwide credibility and more respect from the world nations because it honours its commitments and is true and faithful in dealing with others. The prime minister paid tribute to King Hussein's efforts on the Arab and international front to enhance the Arab nation's stand and to seek a permanent and just solution for the Arab-Israeli problem.

In addition Mr. Rifai made it clear that Jordan will continue to support Iraq in its struggle to repel aggression and demanded that the Security Council implement Resolution 598 to end the Gulf conflict.

Sawt Al Shaab: GCC keeps door open with Iran

THE Gulf Cooperation Council meeting has ended in Riyadh with the Arab leaders committing themselves to resolutions which more or less fall within the framework of the Amman summit meeting held here last month. The Gulf leaders chose to be cautious and to keep the door open with Iran despite the fact that Tehran is still adamant in its position and continues its threat to Arab Gulf states and despite its rejection of U.N. Security Council Resolution 598 which calls for an end to the Gulf conflict.

The Gulf leaders chose to appeal to Iran to end the war and to the international community to help achieve that end. They declined to announce any collective measures to be taken to confront Iran's threats and repel aggression. The Amman summit meeting served as a guideline for the Gulf leaders who announced their total support of its resolutions with regard to the Gulf conflict and the Middle East problem.

Years of despair breed Palestinian revolt

By Karin Laub
Associated Press

BUREIJ, occupied Gaza Strip (AP) — The squalor and despair of Palestinian refugee camps form a breeding ground for the anger that boiled over into the worst anti-Israeli protests in 20 years of occupation.

Teen-agers from the camps in the West Bank and Gaza Strip have been at the forefront, defying the Israeli army with stones, home-made firebombs and burning tires.

Soldiers shot and killed at least 22 protesters in the past three weeks, wounded at least 179 and arrested hundreds who face months in jail and stiff fines.

But the young seem undeterred. "We are just at the beginning," said a 23-year-old activist from Bureij, a camp of mudbrick huts

near the Mediterranean shore and 10 kilometres south of Gaza City.

"The land that was taken by force must be returned by force," said a slight man who wore a red windbreaker, gray jeans and sneakers — the "uniform" of the camp youths.

He would not discuss anti-Israeli activities, and spoke on condition of anonymity for fear of reprisals, saying he was arrested twice in Israeli raids.

"There is a new mentality," said a senior U.N. official who also spoke on condition of anonymity. "The young kids are prepared to sacrifice everything, and it's not just the bravado of kids baring their chests, daring soldiers to shoot them."

The hopelessness among camp residents is at the root of the anger. A third generation is growing up in squalor, aware the chances of leaving are slim as

long as Middle East peace efforts are stalled and Arab countries are too busy with the Iran-Iraq war to pay attention to the plight of the Palestinians.

Bureij is typical for the 28 camps in the West Bank and Gaza, set up by the United Nations for Palestinians who 40 years ago fled or were expelled from what is now Israel.

During a recent visit, barefoot children played in dirt alleys piled with garbage, and families of as many as a dozen people were crowded into single-room shelters.

At the camp's clinic, women in traditional Arab dresses and white headscarves, many carrying crying infants, formed long lines to see a doctor who serves 16,000 residents.

Parasitic diseases, especially intestinal worms, are common. Open sewage contaminates the

water supply. Infant mortality is 45 per 1,000 births, two-and-a-half times the Israeli rate.

"Dogs live better than we do," said 60-year-old Abdul Kareem Ammar who came to Bureij in 1950 after fleeing from a village near the Israeli port city of Ashdod where he grew melons and wheat.

Ammar, a wiry man with a salt-and-pepper moustache and a brown wool scarf draped around his head, said members of his generation didn't fight the occupation because most were uneducated peasants.

But he said he supported the young activists. He said one of his sons was shot in the abdomen during an anti-Israeli demonstration while two others were arrested in sweeps last week.

"Death is better than life in such a miserable situation. I'm ready to sacrifice five of my six

sons if I can go back to my country," said Ammar, who works in Israel as a day labourer.

Ammar spoke in the family's unheated shelter, furnished with mustard-coloured velvet couch, glass table and wall unit. Mattresses were stacked several feet high along the wall, to be spread on the cold cement floor at night.

Many refugees feel that if they leave the camps to move to a permanent home, they will relinquish their claim to return to their villages and that the world will forget about their national aspirations.

"The camp is a symbol. It's the only thing they have," said William Lee, a spokesman for the U.N. Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) that provides services to more than two million Palestinian refugees in Jordan, Syria, Lebanon and the occupied territories.

Of those, about 770,000 live in camps. Gaza has a refugee population of 450,000, including 55 per cent in camps. The West Bank has 370,000 refugees, and 95,000, or 25 per cent, live in camps.

In the past few years, Israel has tried to thin out the Gaza camps. Christine Dabagh, another UNRWA spokeswoman, said refugees were offered land leases to build homes outside the camps, but that only 40,000 have accepted.

Those who moved out had to destroy their shelters, and their old plot became off-limits for new construction, she said.

A former Israeli defence minister, Ariel Sharon, a political hardliner, last week proposed dismantling the Gaza camps altogether. "Palestinian national aspirations... in western Israel" (the Gaza Strip) cannot be fulfilled," said Sharon.

How the international community sees Israel

By Dr. Ranko Petkovic

UNTIL the beginning of the seventies, the Western countries were virtually unanimous in supporting Israel in its conflict with the Arab World. Then, struck by the oil crisis, an earth-shaking tremor not only economic but political as well, certain Western countries, especially in Europe, began showing a greater understanding for the positions and interests of Arab countries.

Now, some fifteen years later, the prevailing view in the West European countries is that solution of the Middle East crisis does not lie in a military denouement, or partial and piecemeal agreements, but in the convening of a peace conference. Such a gathering would bring to the negotiating table not only the permanent members of the Security Council, but also representatives of Israel and of the Arab countries, including representatives of the Palestinian people. Certain neutral European countries, along with a number of large social-democratic parties in the West European countries, strongly advocate such representatives should come from the PLO.

Constituting a part of this important evolution, directly associated with the process of Europe's growing independence, is the assumption of a more selective attitude toward Israel.

Now we see before an asymmetrical political situation: Visible changes in the policies of countries until recently considering the condemnation and boycott of Israel as the alpha and omega of their stance on the Middle East crisis. This refers, of course, primarily to the Socialist countries, not only those coming under the heading of what is known as the Socialist community, but countries like Yugoslavia and China and also the group of non-aligned countries, particularly in Africa.

Motives

What caused these countries to change or at the very least re-examine their attitude towards Israel, although Israel has not buried the hatchet, nor has it withdrawn from the occupied Arab territories?

While the motives governing such a dissimilar group of countries cannot be the same, they nevertheless correspond to the following circumstances:

First, this is a period in international relations marked by the beginning of a relaxation in tension; abandonment of obdurate ideological positions redolent of the cold war; gradual creation of an atmosphere conducive to negotiation and the achievement of understanding, unthinkable in the absence of greater sobriety and realism both in self-knowledge and in communication with others.

Second, in this broad political, and possibly even historical, context, the groundwork is beginning to be laid for solving or at least trying to solve the problem of trouble spots, the most outstanding among them being the Middle East, as the longest lasting and most encompassing in terms of involving the interests of a large number of regional and global factors.

Third, among the immediate impulses causing various countries to re-evaluate their attitudes towards Israel, a place of first-rate importance can be assigned to their desire to make a contribution towards the convening of an international conference on the Middle East and, of course, create latitude for a larger pre-

sence and greater influence in the political and diplomatic activities that could follow.

Fourth, the severance of all communications with the state of Israel and, in particular, identifying all political and social factors in Israel with the principles of its official policy, are incompatible not only with certain international principles and social outlooks, but also with the economic and other interests of countries regarding Israel exclusively as an "evil state".

Fifth, certain Arab countries and political factors in the Arab World have, in the meantime, established official and unofficial contacts with Israel ranging from diplomatic relations to sporadic or regular contacts with specific political forces and individuals in Israel, which brought many face to face with the old truth that in politics it does not do to try and be holier than the pope.

Sixth, changes have occurred in political and social milieux in Israel itself, confronted with the increasingly obvious untenability of a strategy building Israel's future, exclusively, on military means, and uneasy in the teeth of the dilemma: Is time working for or against Israel?

Each one of these reasons, and all of them together, have to some extent influenced the present restructuring of policy towards Israel in the Socialist and non-aligned countries.

The Socialist countries

In the first Arab-Israeli war of 1948, the USSR sided with Israel, who was fighting the Arabs with Soviet weapons delivered via Czechoslovakia. The first Israeli ambassador to the USSR, Golda Meir, was welcomed in Moscow with ovations. Soviet sympathies then were on the side of the Jewish people, most widely victimised by fascism, whereas Arabs were regarded as pawns in British policy.

Israel's gradual inclusion in the fold of Western interests, primarily U.S., and the beginning of a confrontation between "progressive and reactionary" Arab regimes, marked especially by Nasser's coming to power in Egypt in 1952, made the USSR turn a new leaf and become an ardent "friend and ally" of the Arab World.

The first Soviet-Israeli contacts after the disruption of diplomatic relations in 1967 came in December 1973 in the course of the United Nations General Assembly session in New York, when Soviet Foreign Minister Andrei Gromyko met with his Israeli colleague Aba Eban, to talk about the release of Israeli POWs in Syria and the possibility of normalising relations in the scope of the peace process advocated by the USSR. This was also a topic of discussion in talks between Gromyko and his American colleague Cyrus Vance in 1977 but the idea of holding an international conference on the Middle East, with the USA and USSR as co-chairmen, fell through with the signing of separate Egyptian-Israeli accords at Camp David in 1978-79.

The present process of Soviet opening to Israel, inaugurated with the meeting of Soviet ambassador Yuri Vorontsov and Israeli ambassador Ovadye Sofer in Paris in July 1985, and later between Prime Minister Shimon Peres at the General Assembly session in New York in October 1985, was continued at a working level between Soviet and Israeli consular representatives in Helsinki in 1986 when the topic was Soviet property in Israel (i.e. the property of the Russian Ortho-

dox Church in Jerusalem) and Soviet citizens emigrating to Israel. Finally, Soviet consular representatives arrived in Israel in 1987 to talk about the same subjects but this time "on the spot". Although what are called consular problems are now in the foreground, it is certain that ultimately involved is the generation of an atmosphere conducive to the renewal of Soviet-Israeli diplomatic relations in the context of the possible convening of an international conference on the Middle East.

A revival of dormant ties is noticeable also in the relations of other countries of the Socialist community and Israel. Mention should first be made of Hungary where lives the largest group of Jews in Eastern Europe and whose citizens comprise a significant segment of Israel's present population. Few were surprised by the holding of a conference of the World Jewish Congress in Budapest, or the signing of a trade agreement between Hungary and Israel. In Warsaw, meanwhile, a section for Israeli interests in Poland has been opened. Rumanian President Ceausescu, who was the only one in his past area not to break off relations with Israel, is getting ready for talks with Israel's Premier Shamir, now the most stubborn opponent of an international conference on the Middle East.

China, whose position on the Middle East crisis is virtually the same as that of the Non-Aligned Movement, until recently maintained a strict boycott of Israel, to the extent that China's diplomatic representatives were not even allowed, nor did they wish, to shake hands with their colleagues from Israel. Now, handshakes, with a smile thrown in here and there, intimate a process of opening, already permitting Israeli tourists to visit China.

The non-aligned

Documents of the non-aligned countries list Zionism together with racism and imperialism.

Still, despite unreserved support for the Arab countries and, in particular, the PLO as the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people, the Non-Aligned Movement refused to go along with the extremist view originating in Arab circles that Israel should be cast into the sea. If Israel were to withdraw from the occupied territories, and the Palestinian people were able to exercise their legal right to their own sovereign state, this, in the view of the non-aligned, would be the condition for guaranteeing the political independence and

territorial integrity of all the countries in the region, including Israel.

Since the Non-Aligned Movement is democratically structured and every non-aligned country has by implication the right to decide where its own national interests lie, there are a number of variants in non-aligned countries' relations with Israel: Certain non-aligned countries have broken off diplomatic relations with that country, others have not, and still others have in the meantime re-established them.

Among those who have not severed diplomatic relations with Israel are, by and large, the non-aligned countries of Asia, Latin America and those under the strong influence of South Africa. Those who disrupted and then re-established diplomatic relations with Israel count among their number certain African countries south of the Sahara which had rather well developed military, economic, scientific, technical and other ties with Israel, and whose geopolitical and civilizational distaste of the Arabs is no secret to anyone.

The first African country to break off diplomatic relations with Israel was Guinea (1965), followed by the Congo, Chad and Uganda (1972). Mali, Niger, Burundi, Togo, Zaire, Ruanda, Benin, Upper Volta, Equatorial Guinea, Tanzania, the Central African Republic, Madagascar, Ethiopia, Nigeria, Gambia, Zambia, Sierra Leone, Ghana, Senegal, Gabon, Kenya, Liberia, Ivory Coast, Botswana (1973) and finally Mauritius (1976).

Most of these African countries severed diplomatic relations with Israel after the October war of 1973 in response to an appeal from the Organisation of African Unity and, certainly, in the expectation that the oil-producing Arab countries, in full upswing, would compensate them generously for all that they had lost in joining the boycott of Israel.

At the eighth conference of non-aligned countries in Harare 1986, Libyan leader Muammar Qadhafi called non-aligned countries who had revived diplomatic relations with Israel "bartered souls": Egypt in 1979, Zaire in 1982, Liberia in 1983, the Ivory Coast and Comoros in 1986. But this did not prevent Togo from following suit in 1987. If we add to these countries those who never severed relations with Israel (Malawi, Lesotho, Swaziland and South Africa), at the time this issue goes to press ten of the fifty African countries maintain diplomatic relations with Israel.

Banned group makes comeback in Sri Lanka

By Marilyn Odchimar
Reuter

MATARA, Sri Lanka — Sixteen years after staging an abortive attempt to topple the Sri Lankan government, a shadowy and violent Marxist group is making a powerful comeback.

Anti-government slogans scrawled in red and black on buildings in Matara in the south, a traditional hotbed of Sinhalese radicalism, scream the presence of the banned Janatha Vimukthi Peramuna (JVP), or People's Liberation Front.

The police suspect that members of the JVP were responsible for the killing of the ruling United National Party chairman, Harsha Abeywardene, in Colombo on Dec. 23.

Abeywardene died instantly when a gunman sprayed bullets

while he was driving to work. His bodyguard, the driver and a servant, who were in the car, were also killed in the shooting.

A former leader of the party estimates JVP membership at 10,000, including about 2,000 full-time workers. In 1975, total membership was just 1,000.

The JVP's resurgence stems partly from anger among many Sinhalese at a July peace pact signed by the government to end a four-year separatist war waged by Tamils in the north and east of the country.

The JVP, dominated by the island's majority Sinhalese community, says the government gave too much away in offering autonomy to Tamil areas. The group also wants 35,000 Indian troops enforcing the shaky pact to leave the island.

A 24-year-old JVP member in-

terviewed here before the killing of Abeywardene said membership had grown since August by 60 per cent in Colombo, 160 kilometres to the north. It had a particularly strong hold among university students, he said.

The member, who asked not to be identified, told Reuters the JVP had killed about 250 people across the country since August, including 30 in Matara and 75 in nearby Hambantota.

Military officials suspect the group has infiltrated the police and armed forces.

About 10,000 JVP members were killed in a 1971 insurrection. The group was banned in 1983 for supposedly encouraging anti-Tamil riots in July that year.

Reverend Vellettota Pannadasa, a Buddhist monk who is a local official in a village near Matara, said: "The JVP is becoming

stronger daily because of the stubborn attitude of the government."

"In my own village, I think 65 to 70 per cent support the JVP." The group, which has compared India's military presence in Sri Lanka to U.S. involvement in the Vietnam war, has thrived in the south because of the area's poverty. The government, preoccupied with the Tamil rebellion, has diverted few resources to the area.

"My (Sri Lankan) clients no longer come here since August because they mistakenly think there is a war here," said a manager of a hotel overlooking a serene beach.

Murders in the area are common. The climate of fear is exploited by ordinary criminals who pass off their extortion and violence as JVP-inspired.

The Nile thirsts for life

Tony Walker reports how a persistent drought in the catchment areas of the River Nile has dangerous implications for Egypt, which depends for its very existence on the ancient waterway.

CAIRO — What the Nile gives to the Egyptians it can also take away. The great river has rarely failed them in more than 7,000 years of civilisation, and yet persistent drought in its catchment areas is threatening disaster.

The crisis of the Nile goes to the very heart of Egypt's existence. Nothing would be more likely to erode its image of itself, its traditions and its self-confidence than further prolonged drought.

Underlying the discussion — in dusty offices in Cairo among technicians responsible for monitoring the river's flow and in the gilded salons of senior officials — is an unspoken fear that weather patterns may be permanently changing in the country's African hinterland, source of the Nile waters.

These concerns have flowed quietly through sections of the bureaucracy and lapped at the doors of the presidency itself. But to the dismay of some of the higher echelons of the Egyptian government, there is little sign that the extent of the danger is appreciated.

"Nobody has the courage to say the king is naked," says a senior and highly articulate Egyptian official, who has mounted something of a personal campaign to alert his colleagues to the need for stricter conservation measures.

Images of Ethiopian peasants starving to death after yet another failure of the rains should be particularly painful in Cairo, because the uplands of Ethiopia, source of the Blue Nile, collect 84 per cent of the waters flowing through Egypt. Yet if the Egyptian government is concerned, its worry is well disguised.

A seventh year of drought in the Ethiopian catchment of the Blue Nile — matching Joseph's vision of seven lean years threatening the inhabitants of the Nile valley and delta — is, it seems, being realised. Rainfall in Ethiopia has been consistently low since 1981. Water flows at Aswan of just 38 billion cubic metres in 1984-85 and the expected 42 billion cubic metres this year are on a par with the century's previous low of 42 billion cubic metres in 1913-14.

The crisis of the Nile has political, social, economic, demographic and foreign policy dimensions which are likely to come into focus if the drought persists beyond August 1989. By then, at the present rate of consumption, all usable reserves will have been exhausted in Lake Nasser, formed by the completion of the Aswan high dam in 1971, on the borders of Egypt and Sudan.

Egypt's irrigation year runs from the beginning of August to the end of July. Total yield this year, based on four months data from the Blue Nile catchment corresponding with the July-October rainy season, is expected to reach about 60 billion cubic metres, compared with the average of 84 billion cubic metres. Egypt's quota will fall well short of the 55.5 billion cubic metres it is entitled to under a sharing agreement with Sudan.

Egypt's predicament is that it is almost totally dependent on a single water source, which is subject to climatic fluctuations and to unpredictable developments upstream among the seven volatile African states (eight including Egypt), which form the Nile basin. It is perhaps unsurprising, if a little melodramatic, that Mr. Boutros Ghali, Egypt's Minister of State for Foreign Affairs, should have declared recently that: "The next war in our region will be over the waters of the Nile, not politics."

Egypt's immediate problem, however, is that to maintain the standard annual flow through the Nile at Aswan of about 55.5 billion cubic metres — the volume necessary for its livelihood — it is being forced to draw on buffer stocks in Lake Nasser which are already perilously low. According to Mr. Abdul Hady Rady, a senior irrigation ministry official Egypt will utilise about 10 billion cubic metres of a 17 billion cubic metres reserve in the year to July 1988 to augment available water supplies.

Usage over the 12 months of an additional 10 billion cubic metres of buffer stocks would leave Lake Nasser with just 7 billion cubic metres in reserve for the following year (1988-89). Unless the drought breaks, Egyptians are certain to be forced for the first

time in recent memory to accept restrictions on water use.

Continuing dry years into the 1990s would play havoc with Egypt's ambitious land reclamation plans and make its rapid rate of population increase even more difficult to sustain. Such a development would also increase the country's already high level of dependence — 50 per cent — on imported foodstuffs.

Allied to these problems is the fact that diminishing reserves in Lake Nasser are restricting hydroelectric power generation from the massive turbines of the Aswan high dam. According to a U.S. energy expert, the waters of Lake Nasser stood at 158.37 metres above sea level on November 1, which meant that generating capacity was already down by about 25 per cent.

By the end of July next year, the dam is expected to have dropped to 151 metres above sea level, which would generate generating capacity by a further 7 per cent. The flow of water from Lake Nasser through the high and low dams above Aswan, near the borders with Sudan, accounts for about 28 per cent of Egypt's electricity requirements.

A shortfall in Egypt's main energy source will have serious repercussions in a country which is already experiencing shortages. The electric power supply failed to meet demand on at least 70 days between January and September this year, according to the United States Agency for International Development (USAID).

If Lake Nasser drops below a range of 143 to 145 metres above sea level, the turbines will have to be shut down. This point will be reached sometime in 1989 if the drought persists, but experts point out that the level could dissipate more quickly than anticipated because the lake's flood plain is drying up and the water level will soon begin to drop in the Nile river channel itself.

A briefing paper, prepared by USAID's office of irrigation and land development, predicts imminent water shortages and makes ominous reading. It says that Egypt needs to manage its limited water resources better.

The urgency stems from: — The apparent lack of conservation measures covering the use of the water reserves behind

the Aswan high dam during the recent African drought.

Estimates that show there will be insufficient water to sustain Egypt's projected population by the year 2000, unless drastic conservation and management improvements are put into place during the next few years.

The unpleasant reality is that the country's population of 51 million is growing annually by up to 3 per cent — about an extra million every eight months.

By the year 2000, the total will have reached between 65 million and 70 million. A senior irrigation ministry official estimates that, by the end of the century, the country will require more than 70 billion cubic metres annually to sustain its growing population. Where will the water come from?

Mr. Rady says the ministry's main task is to make better use of available water. Efficiency usage stands at about 50 per cent, low by international standards. He believes that this could be raised to 75 per cent by lining canals to stop seepage, using pipelines instead of canals and changing irrigation methods from the wasteful flood to more selective watering. Supplies could also be maximised by recycling.

But all this takes time in a largely agrarian country, where peasants still employ ancient water management practices which, in some cases, date from the time of the Pharaohs. Egypt's arable land amounts to about 6 million acres. Modern irrigation methods are being applied to only about 125,000 acres, little more than 2 per cent of the total.

Egyptian officials most immediately concerned with making the best use of water seem almost casual about the dangers. Relying on ancient records, dating from before the birth of Christ, they insist that present shortages are merely an aberration in the life-giving history of the world's second longest river, the main channel of which stretches for 6,700 kilometres.

They report that, in the past 3,000 years, prolonged drought has only been experienced on a few occasions: Once during the reign of Rameses II (1304-1237 B.C.) and later in the eighth century A.D. during the Fatimid period. The completion of the Aswan high dam in 1971 was meant to give an almost absolute guarantee against famine and drought.

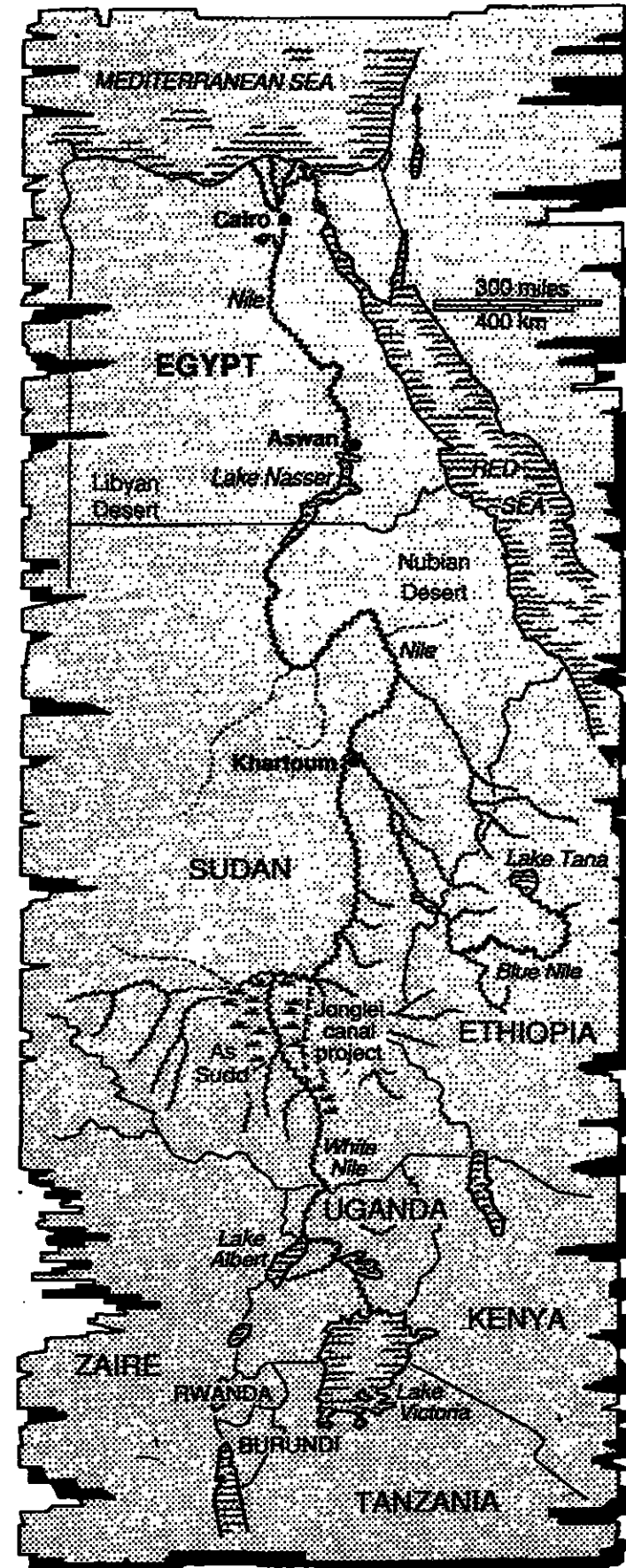
Less sanguine about prospects are American experts who have studied the records and arrived at different conclusions.

"Based on this (study) and on the current knowledge of worldwide weather patterns, it might be assumed that we are currently entering a low flow period for the next 15 or 20 years," the office of irrigation and land development report says.

But it also warns that the "long-term weather patterns and water yields to Egypt could very well be changed, because of man's influence through various development and use activities in the countries within the watershed."

Egypt is very conscious of the threat of serious interruption to its lifeline because of possible political disruptions upriver. This is one of the reasons why its foreign policy has turned increasingly towards Africa.

A reminder of the potential danger has been the interruption, because of civil war in southern



Sudan, to the Jonglei canal project to improve the flow of water through marshland blocking the White Nile, the source of which is Lake Victoria. The Jonglei project, part-funded by Egypt and the European Community, was designed to increase the volume of water flowing into Lake Nasser by about 4 billion cubic metres a year. It was 70 per cent completed when work was halted in 1983. There is no sign of it being resumed.

Mr. Ghali estimates that the Sudanese civil war and failure to complete the Jonglei project is costing Egypt up to \$200 million annually. He says that an additional 1 million acres of land could be irrigated if the canal had been completed as planned three years ago.

"But," he observes, "the problem of water is linked with long-term solutions to political disputes in the region." Southern Sudanese rebels are receiving assistance from Kenya, Uganda and Ethiopia.

Interruptions to the Jonglei scheme are impeding plans for other conservation projects, such as the creation of a dam on Lake

Mobutu (previously Lake Albert), on the borders of Zaire and Kenya, to marshal water resources better. There is no chance of raising funds for the second project until work on the Jonglei canal resumes, he says.

Egypt, in its anxiety to promote economic and political co-operation among the eight Nile basin countries, co-sponsored several years ago the formation of the Undugu Group (undugu means fraternity in Swahili). The group includes Uganda, Tanzania, Rwanda, Burundi, Zaire, Sudan and Kenya, as well as Egypt.

Cairo is aware, not only that the potential for dispute within these countries is great, but also that they are undergoing high rates of population increase. Kenya, for example, has one of the highest birth rates in the world.

"The day that Kenya decides to use water from Lake Victoria, we'll have less water in Egypt," says a senior official. "One litre of water used for their irrigation will be deducted from water received in Cairo." — Financial Times feature.

Randa Habibs Corner

Give 1988 a chance

WITH the new year round the corner, people's hopes raise. Those who feel they had a bad year say that they are eager to welcome the new year, problems will disappear at midnight on Dec. 31.

Even if such hopes may seem illogical to some, it feels so good to be able to think at 00 hour on the first of January that the world will look brighter.

Kissing and congratulating, people wish all the best to each other. That night most of us will sleep deeply, though perhaps very late, and we will have great dreams. Dreams of better days, of love and compassion, of an end to injustice and suffering. Smiles on all faces and tears allowed only for joy. No more famine and child beggars. I wish however that this feeling of hope will last more than one evening.

Let us give 1988 a chance to prove that it will be far better than its youngest sisters. And, who knows, maybe it really will.

Happy new year to all of you.

Junblatt backs Damascus pact

(Continued from page 1)

It could be "just like in the U.S., where one senator has one vote," he said. "Our aim is to achieve an equilibrium."

Another option that Mr. Junblatt favours is a return to his late father "Kamal Junblatt's 1976 'provisional programme' for national reforms in Lebanon."

But despite his belief that compromise was possible in Lebanon, Mr. Junblatt sounded pessimistic as far as immediate prospects for a permanent solution were concerned.

"Even if a compromise was reached, it is rather unlikely that the parties involved will implement it and even then the civil war could erupt again after 10 years," he said.

In Mr. Junblatt's view, the main question that should be tackled to pave the way for permanent settlement was to define Lebanon's identity.

"Is Lebanon Arab or not? This is the real question that needs to be answered by all the parties concerned," he said. Both the Damascus accord and the late Junblatt's plan emphasised the Arab identity of Lebanon. But according to Mr. Junblatt, the Arabisation of Lebanon can only be achieved through a change of the educational system and the army.

Mr. Junblatt called for "Arabisation of the Lebanese army... that should represent all the people in Lebanon and not only the interests of one sect."

The Lebanese leader called for the expulsion of "American military experts" from Lebanon as one essential step towards the Arabisation of the army.

Asked about the number of these "experts," Mr. Junblatt did not disclose a figure but contended that the Lebanese army was under "American influence."

"Lebanon has become another banana republic and its army is influenced by the U.S. just as in the other banana republics elsewhere," Mr. Junblatt said.

"Lebanon has always been the gate to the Arab World and consequently they (the Americans) are trying to transform Lebanon into a base to sabotage the Arab World," he said.

Without a real Arabisation of Lebanon there could be no real solution, he said. Any solution should also take into consideration a redistribution of wealth in Lebanon," he added.

He said any reconciliation formula should seek to achieve poli-

tical, social and economic development for all the areas in Lebanon.

Mr. Junblatt noted that a fair distribution of wealth and social justice was warranted since the Lebanese society, badly hit by an economic recession, has undergone a sharp class polarisation.

"The economic crisis has completely destroyed the middle class," he said.

According to the Lebanese leader, wealth is concentrated in the hands of "few monopolies among the Maronite circles."

Asked about Arab efforts to secure financial aid to Lebanon, Mr. Junblatt said the efficiency of such aid would depend on the channels the assistance is secured through.

"It would be impossible for Arab aid to reach all the areas and the population if it is provided through President Gemayel," he said.

"The system is corrupt. Past aid supplies in Lebanon were sold in the market and did not reach the people," he added.

Mr. Junblatt said his party was not supporting any of the declared or aspirant presidential candidates. "I do not support individuals. I support political programmes but even then I do not believe that any of these candidates will remain committed to his platform once he reaches Baabda (the presidential palace)," he said. "All candidates or at least half of them just want to get to Baabda," he said.

But he implied that his party would support a candidate who seeks to achieve a fundamental change in Lebanon.

"We are not going to support any candidate who has no clear-cut objectives and is not willing to work for a major political change," he said.

When pressed to disclose his opinion of the different Lebanese candidates, Mr. Junblatt said that Paris-based Rimon Edheh was "the most honest amongst the candidates."

He pointed out, like other observers and analysts on Lebanon do, that Mr. Edheh was "never involved in the inter-Lebanese fighting."

Analysts on Lebanese affairs consider Mr. Edheh, an independent, to be the most important candidate.

Mr. Junblatt said that the uprising in the occupied West Bank and Gaza "has sparked a hope for a real change in the Arab World."

Hart return spawns new round of risque jokes

By Rita Beamish
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Political punsters and joke writers for U.S. late-night talk-show hosts gleefully wrung their hands at the news of Gary Hart's stunning re-entry into the presidential campaign.

Virtually the minute Hart made the announcement earlier this month, the "Hart-attack" jokes were in the works, many of them of a sexual nature.

Capitol Hill snickered at jokes that Hart's wife, Lee, has a new campaign button, "trust but verify" — a parody combining Hart's reputation and the U.S. attitude toward Soviet compliance with the recently signed arms-control pact.

Jokes circulated that Hart's new campaign manager is Dr. Ruth Westheimer, a popular sex adviser; his new pollsters are sex therapists Masters and Johnson.

The Hart news was a bonanza for late-night TV writers. Host David Letterman's audience roared Thursday night when he announced that along with regular features such as stupid pet tricks, "We set aside a few minutes every night for Gary Hart jokes."

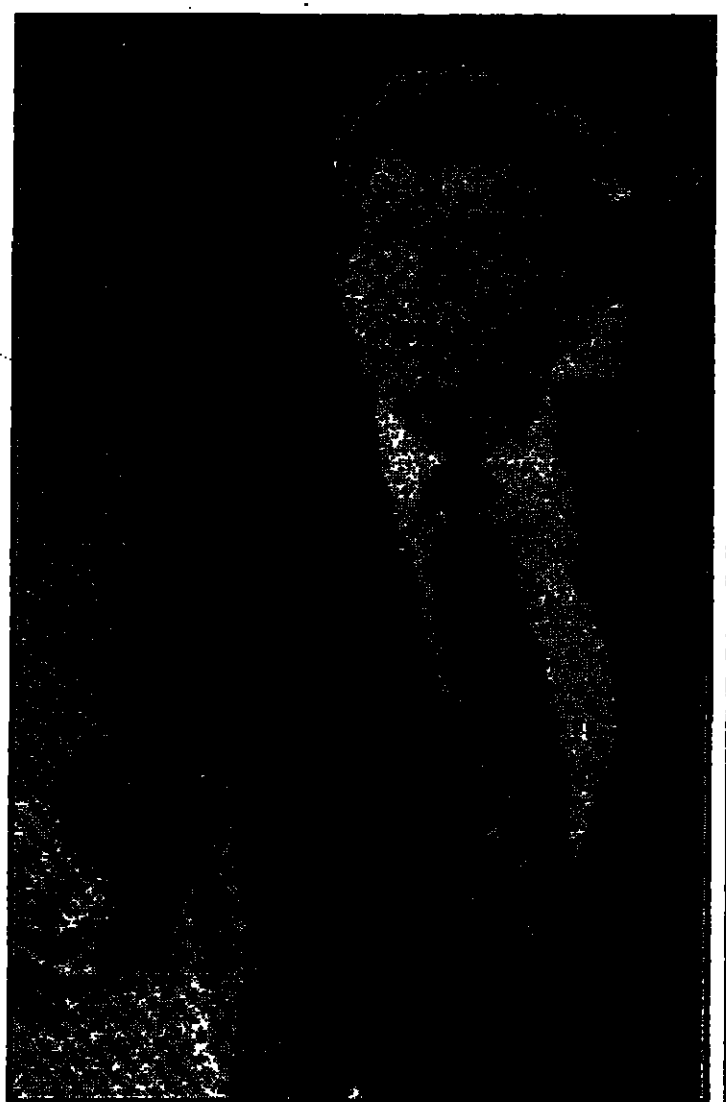
"I'm just glad the guy's dating again," Letterman deadpanned.

Television talk-show host Johnny Carson noted that Hart has no staff and no money — "and his new campaign slogan is, 'I can't give you anything but love, baby.'"

"Saturday Night Live," a late-night comedy-variety show co-hosted this weekend by rival Democratic presidential hopeful senator Paul Simon, was rife with Hart material.

It repeated a mock commercial, shown earlier in the television season, in which a blonde woman melodramatically threw Hart's picture on the floor and ripped his poster from her wall. But then a shadowy man in a suit entered the room and they embraced passionately as an announcer's voice said, "Gary Hart — you can't get him out of your mind."

By Tuesday evening, a Washington comedy troupe, The Capitol Steps, had incorporated Hart into their satirical singing spoofs.



Gary Hart announcing his comeback

"When it comes to humour, Gary Hart is climbing back on top again," said the group's Bill Strauss, paraphrasing a line from one song that parodies Hart's relationship with model Donna Rice. Hart was sidelined for seven months after disclosure of that alleged liaison, and his announcement that he would reactivate his democratic campaign took most of the political world by surprise.

Carson referred to Wednesday's rare snow in Los Angeles, quipping: "Gary Hart said a little prayer yesterday before announcing his decision. He said, 'Dear God, if I'm doing the wrong thing, let it snow in California.'"

In a reference to the notorious photos showing Miss Rice sitting on Hart's lap, Carson said Hart is campaigning in a red suit — that

way he can claim to be Santa Claus if spotted with a woman on his lap.

Carson's audience groaned as he continued:

"It looks as though the Democratic nomination will fall in his lap. That is, if there's room."

And Letterman noted that Hart intends to apply to the Federal Election Commission for federal matching funds of about \$1 million to help finance his campaign. Letterman added, "it was also disclosed today he has also applied for matching blondes."

Strauss said his troupe also has a new bit stating that if Hart's elected, "they're going to have to create new positions, and maybe even whole new wings at the White House — for the first lady, second lady, third lady..."

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Kuwaiti husband-and-wife team wins desert challenge

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Tariq and Khoulood Al Alayan, a husband-and-wife team from Kuwait, bagged the 1987 Marlboro Desert Challenge on Wednesday after securing the second place in the third and final round of the championship held in Amman.

Tareq Al Wazzan and co-driver Khalid Khalifah, another Kuwaiti team driving a Range Rover, came first in the event, but the aggregate total of points that the Alayans secured in the three rounds qualified the couple for this year's championship and to bag the \$10,000 top prize.

Kuwaiti teams dominated the exclusive event for four-wheel vehicles but three out of the five drivers who managed to make it to the finishing line were Jordanians.

Abdel Ilhas Said Malhas was placed third in his Land Rover while Marouf Abu Samra secured the fourth place with a Daihatsu Rocky and Ibrahim Salman was placed fifth in his Suzuki SJ 10.

Former Jordanian national champion Hani Bisharat, taking part for the first time in an exclusive four-wheel drive event, could not finish the rally in his

Toyota Hilux, but was awarded "the Spirit of the Rally" prize for his excellent performance up to the half-way mark.

The event was devoid of an expected tough battle between Ahmad Al Helal from Kuwait, who had led the contention list, after securing highest points in the first two rounds held in Kuwait and Bahrain in October and December respectively.

Helal could not get his Mitsubishi Pajero, which secured him victories in Kuwait and Bahrain, to Jordan in time for the event because of problems in Bahrain, said a spokesman for the rally.

Abbas Al Mousawi of Qatar had to drop out of Wednesday's race immediately after the first special stage of the 312-kilometre race held through the desert near the Queen Alia International Airport and organised by the Royal Automobile Club of Jordan (RACJ) and sponsored by Marlboro and British Petroleum.

The rally spokesman said Mousawi's Range Rover suffered a broken differential and three punctures.

The overall standing for the 1987 Marlboro Desert Challenge stood as under after the third round, dubbed the Jordan Desert Challenge:

Tariq and Khoulood Alayan — Kuwait — 51 points; Tareq Al Wazzan (co-driver Khalid Khalifah) — Kuwait — 42 points; Ahmad Al Helal — Kuwait — 36 points; Eid Falah (co-driver Sadeq Ashkanani) — Kuwait (Range Rover) — 31 points; Abbas Al Mousawi (co-driver Mubarak Al Hajri) — Qatar — 24 points.

Abdel Ilhas Said Malhas secured 16 points but he had not taken part in any earlier rounds. However he was placed sixth overall as did Ebrahim Mattar and co-driver Khalid Engineer — Bahrain (Mitsubishi Pajero).

The 1987 Marlboro-B.P. Desert Challenge was the first of its kind organised in the Middle East. A Marlboro-B.P. spokesman said the 1988 championship would be a five-round event and would include Jordan and Oman in addition to Kuwait, Bahrain and Qatar.

The Jordan Desert Challenge was not originally scheduled in the rallying calendar for the year in the Kingdom, but organisational problems in Qatar prompted the sponsors to seek the help of the RACJ to organise the event in the Kingdom.

The main reason behind the sponsors' decision to hold the event in Jordan was the excellent and professional reputation of the RACJ in organising rallying in the Middle East.

Olympic officials predict full turnout for '88 games

SEOUL, South Korea (AP) — Olympic officials indicated Wednesday they do not expect a Communist boycott of the 1988 Seoul games and predicted the event would be a major success.

Juan Antonio Samaranch, president of the International Olympic Committee (IOC), said in a New Year's message to South Korea that he was confident the Seoul games would attract more nations than any other Olympics.

"As we enter the new year and rapidly approach the opening of the games next Sept. 17, I remain absolutely convinced that the games of the 24th Olympiad in Seoul will attract the largest-ever participation and bring the entire sporting world together in an atmosphere of good will," Samaranch said.

Communist North Korea has threatened to lead a boycott of the games if its demand to co-host the event is rejected. The IOC and South Korea have refused the demand.

Park Seh-Jik, president of the Seoul Olympic Organising Committee (SLOOC), echoed Samaranch's optimism with a New Year's message Wednesday that also predicted a full turnout for the games.

"We plan to host an event with the largest number of participating countries in Olympic history, with the greatest harmony, the best athletic performances, flawless security, quality service and economy and efficiency," Park said.

A Soviet athletic delegation arrived Sunday in Seoul for talks that reportedly involved making arrangements for Soviet participation in the games. South Korean Olympic officials have said they expect the Soviet Union and its allies to attend the games.

Nations invited to attend the games have until Jan. 17 to accept. East Germany and Hungary last week became the first Soviet-Block nations to agree to attend the games.

Vera favourite to win as popping champagne corks mark new year

SAO PAULO (R) — Ecuador's Rolando Vera, a national hero since winning 12 months ago, will carry the hopes of his country in the 63rd Sao Silvestre round-the-houses road race on New Year's Eve.

A silver medalist in the 10,000 metres at the Pan-American Games in Indianapolis earlier this year, Vera arrived from Ecuador accompanied by 20 reporters, six radio station teams and a television crew.

Vera fears defeat in South America's oldest and most important road race could disappoint his countrymen.

"The smallest detail is important... a mere push at the start

could be fatal," said the Ecuadorian, whose main rivals will be Morocco's Mustafah Nethadi, Italian David Bergamini, Kenya's Sam Ngatia and American Ron Tabb.

But despite the quality of the opposition, all Ecuador expects Vera to be first across the finish line in Sao Paulo shortly before the popping champagne corks mark the arrival of 1988.

In the absence of Rosa Motta, winner of the women's race for the past six years, Portugal will be looking to teammate Rita Borralho for a seventh straight success.

The race will start at 2305 local time on Thursday.

Rockets raid Pistons' net, break their ten-game winning sequence

NEW YORK (AP) — The Houston Rockets' twins towers are being rebuilt with a slightly different architecture.

Seven-foot (two one-third metre) Joe Barry Carroll, strictly Akeem Olatunji's backup since the Dec. 12 trade that sent Ralph Sampson to Golden State, played many of his 36 minutes at forward Tuesday night.

Carroll had 25 points and 13 rebounds and Olatunji added 15 points and 14 rebounds as the Rockets broke the Detroit Pistons' 10-game winning streak with a 101-91 victory.

"I've always said I think they can play together," Houston Coach Bill Fitch said of Carroll and Olatunji. "They can play as well as Ralph and Akeem did."

Houston trailed 57-46 at half-time, but Olatunji and Carroll scored 10 points each in the third quarter as the Rockets outscored the Pistons 30-10 for a 76-67 lead.

"It's not important," Carroll said of his reserve role. "What's really important is what I do with my minutes as opposed to where

they are placed."

In other NBA games, it was Milwaukee 106, New Jersey 88; New York 123, Portland 110; Atlanta 108, Chicago 98; Dallas 126, Sacramento 117; Utah 98, Denver 97; and Los Angeles Lakers 131, Philadelphia 115.

Detroit, which still has the best record in the Eastern Conference, shot 39 per cent from the field. Adrian Dantley led the Pistons in scoring with 18 points, but he was 6-for-15, while Isiah Thomas was 4-for-14 and Vinnie Johnson 2-for-10.

Lakers 131, 76ers 115

Los Angeles beat Philadelphia for its ninth straight victory as Byron Scott scored a career-high 37 points and Magic Johnson added 26 points and matched his season-high with 17 assists.

Mavericks 126, Kings 117

Mark Aguirre, who twisted his ankle in practice on Monday, scored 24 of his 31 points in the first half as Dallas defeated Sacramento for its fourth straight victory.

Hawks 108, Bulls 98

Atlanta handed Chicago its

fifth straight loss as Glenn Rivers had 29 points, 15 rebounds and 12 assists and Dominique Wilkins 26 points.

The victory moved the Hawks, who have won eight of their last nine and 13 of 15, into first place in the Central Division, a half game ahead of Detroit.

Jazz 98, Nuggets 97

Utah won its third road game of the season and Denver lost for the second time at home as Karl Malone scored a season-high 37 points for the Jazz.

Bucks 106, Nets 88

Milwaukee won its third straight as Terry Cummings scored 21 points at New Jersey. The Bucks extended a 28-19 lead to 34-21 early in the second quarter before the Nets used a 9-2 streak to get within 10 points.

Knicks 123, Trail Blazers 110

New York broke nine-game losing streak against Portland as Kenny Walker scored a season-high 25 points and Gerald Wilkins hit six of his 22 during a decisive 12-0 spurt in the fourth quarter.

Woodforde, Rive advance in South Australian Open

ADELAIDE, Australia (AP) — Joey Rive of the United States had to conquer Australian Jason Stoltenberg and stifling heat Wednesday to advance to the quarterfinals of the \$93,400 South Australian Open tennis championships.

Rive downed Stoltenberg, the world's No. 1 junior, 7-5, 2-6, 6-2 in second-round action in the Nabisco Grand Prix event, which is being played on a synthetic rebound ace surface.

Rive said the 35 degree Celsius (95 degree Fahrenheit) heat tired him in the first set of the game in the tournament at Adelaide's Memorial Drive courts.

"The heat was really getting to me, but by the third set, I got my second wind and felt I was really returning well," Rive said.

Australian Mark Woodforde and West German Patrick Baur also won second-round matches Wednesday, while top seeded Wally Masur of Australia downed his compatriot Peter Carter 6-2, 6-1 in a first round contest.

Woodforde delighted his hometown crowd with a straight

set victory over South African Barry Moor. The red-haired left-hander scored a 6-4, 6-3 triumph. Baur downed Paul Chamberlin of the United States in straight sets 7-6, 6-1.

Australian tennis

In Brisbane, Australia, third-seeded Claudia Kohde-Kilsch of West Germany beat Anna Maria Fernandez of the United States 6-3, 6-1, on Wednesday to advance in the \$150,000 Ariadne Classic Women's Tennis Tournament.

Kohde-Kilsch had a first-round bye in the 56-draw Virginia Slims series grass court event.

Canadian Jill Hetherington scored an upset by eliminating eighth-seeded Etsuko Inoue of Japan 7-6 (10-8), 6-3 in another second-round match at the Milton courts.

Other second-round winners Wednesday were Australian Di-

anne Balestrat and Patty Fendick of the United States.

Veteran Balestrat ousted Belgian Anne Devries 6-2, 6-3, while Fendick downed her South African-born compatriot Ros Fairbank 7-6 (7-3), 6-1.

In third-round action, Manon Bollegraf of The Netherlands stunned Australian Liz Smylie 6-1, 6-1 in a match in which the Aussie made numerous unforced errors.

French giantkiller Pascale Paradis also moved into the last eight by beating Japanese qualifier Masako Yanagi 6-4, 3-6, 6-1.

Paradis, 21, downed second-seeded Helena Sukova of Czechoslovakia on Tuesday. She advanced to her first quarterfinal in three years.

Other third-round winners were Sylvia Hanika of West Germany, who bested Heather Ludloff of the United States 6-2, 3-6, 7-6 (7-1) and Jana Novotna of Czechoslovakia, who ousted Australian Wendy Turnbull 4-6, 6-1, 6-2.

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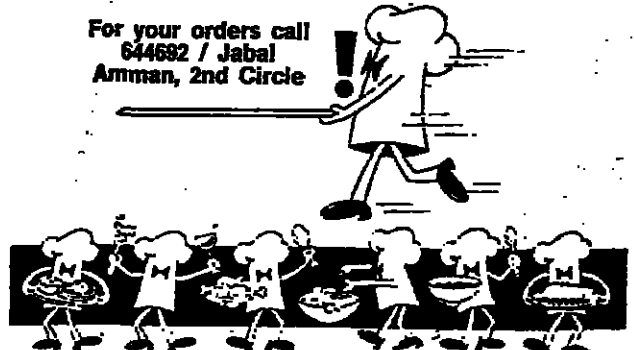
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دليل اهل الكو

U.S. report criticises poor accounting, controls

WASHINGTON (AP) — The U.S. government is losing billions of dollars through poor accounting systems and weak internal controls despite several improvements initiated the past two years, the General Accounting Office (GAO) said Wednesday.

About 30 per cent of the 1,515 accounting, procurement, debt collection and other weaknesses identified by 18 government departments or agencies since 1983 remain uncorrected, the accounting agency said in a report to Congress.

It said the 18 agencies, which account for about 95 per cent of federal expenditures, pay 25 per cent of their bills late, incurring millions of dollars in interest penalties annually.

Another 25 per cent of the government's bills are paid too early. That cost the government more than \$350 million in lost interest in 1986, the GAO said.

But significant progress has been made in a number of areas, according to the 50-page report, the third by the GAO on how federal agencies are living up to the 1982 financial integrity act intended to curb fraud, waste and abuse in government.

Two years ago, in its last report on the congressionally ordered reforms, GAO complained that the major problems remained largely unchanged.

This time, it said the administration of President Ronald Reagan has taken significant steps in several problem areas, making collection of delinquent loans and other debts owed to the government and better cash management particular priorities.

While improvement have been made, most agencies still "have a long way to go," the GAO said.

Underlying the problem, it said, is the government's continued reliance on "antiquated accounting systems ... laid out in World War II, and many of them

built around 1950s vintage concepts and computers.

As a result, the GAO said, "billions of dollars are not being adequately accounted for, managed or financially controlled."

For example, the Defence Department, which accounts for about 80 per cent of the \$300 billion in goods and services that the government contracts to buy annually, reported that 52 of its 114 accounting systems did not meet GAO requirements.

Because of problems in just one of those systems — for the multibillion-dollar foreign military sales programme — the Pentagon cannot account for more than \$600 million in advances made by foreign customers for

the purchase of weapons systems, GAO said.

More serious is the lack of internal controls over the Defence Department's \$160 billion inventory that among other things has allowed explosives to fall into hands of extremist organisations, the GAO said.

The Pentagon is not the only agency whose poor internal controls may have aided terrorists, the GAO said. The State Department allowed construction blueprints for an annex to the U.S. embassy in Beirut — where terrorist attacks have killed 260 Americans since 1983 — to go to 11 Lebanese contractors who did not have required security clearances.

Kuwait Investment Office raises equity in B.P.

LONDON (R) — The Kuwait Investment Office (KIO), an investment arm of the Kuwait government, has raised its stake in oil giant British Petroleum Co Plc (B.P.) to 17.4 per cent from 17.07 per cent a week ago, a KIO spokesman said on Wednesday.

He told Reuters that KIO bought a further 22 million B.P. partly paid-up shares at 70.5 pence (\$1.31) each on Tuesday. This was just above the 70 pence quoted on the London Stock Exchange at midday on Wednesday for the recent issue.

The spokesman declined to confirm whether KIO, which has been steadily building up a stake in B.P. since the flopped sell-off of the government's remaining shareholding in October, would continue to buy B.P. shares in the market.

The 70.5 pence price KIO paid for its latest purchase was just half a pence above the price at which the Bank of England is offering until Jan. 6 to buy back unwanted part-paid shares from the public.

The British central bank made the offer to help underpin the new issue after it was heavily undersubscribed at its launch at £1.20 (\$2.23) a share payable immediately in October. Two further instalments of £1.05 (\$1.95) each are due on the shares next August and in April, 1989.

KIO raised its stake just as B.P. the world's third biggest oil company, was preparing to release its offer document for the whole of the issued share capital of independent British oil company Britoil Plc.

Under London Stock Exchange rules, 29.9 per cent is the maximum stake any company or individual can hold in a quoted company without making a full takeover bid.

B.P.'s £2.27 billion (\$4.2 billion) bid to control Britoil's board is opposed by the government, which holds a special "golden share" giving it ultimate voting control over Britoil. Britoil was privatised in two stages in the 1980s.

Press reports have speculated recently about a possible compromise between B.P. and the government in which the treasury would transfer its golden share to the merged B.P.-Britoil group.

This would enable the company to defend itself against unwelcome bidders, the reports said. B.P. has declined comment on the reports, saying it will talk with the government soon on its proposed Britoil takeover.

LONDON (R) — Central banks in Japan and Europe intervened on Wednesday to prop the dollar but dealers saw no rally from its present historic lows without decisive action by the United States, which many doubt will be taken.

Worries about the dollar led to predictions that 1988 may see new volatility in share prices around the globe. But trading in shares worldwide was thin on Wednesday, with the tumult of 1987 abated in the year-end holiday season.

The dollar, at Europe's midday, fetched just under 1.60 Deutschmarks and around 123.70 Japanese yen, not much above all-time lows of 1.5865 and 122.75 quoted earlier this week.

Trading was very quiet. "The market is still targeting a lower dollar, but not today," the treasurer of a major U.S. bank in Frankfurt said.

At midday on Wednesday, London's blue-chip barometer, the Financial Times Stock Exchange 100-share index, was up 24 points at 1,754.3 after dropping 60.8 or 3.4 per cent on Tuesday.

The Tuesday fall followed losses on Wall Street, in Tokyo and on continental European bourses.

Generally, dealers worldwide had marked shares lower because of the dollar. They said its fall renewed anxieties about the U.S. and global economy while also threatening the earnings of Asian and European exporters.

London brokers cited a some-

Such slight dollar selling as there was triggered buying by the central banks of Japan, West Germany, Switzerland and Italy.

But dealers doubted if central banks could stop the dollar falling further early in 1988 if the U.S. Federal Reserve does not help more vigorously than it has seemed to do recently.

A consensus appeared to be building among European economists and dealers that political considerations would determine U.S. actions in the coming presidential election year.

Washington would certainly be reluctant to raise interest rates — "even if this means letting the dollar take the strain for a while yet," as one bank economist put it.

Higher interest rates would lure investors to buy dollar assets and so strengthen the dollar, but would add to the dangers of recession posed by the October stock market crash.

World stock markets on Wednesday wound down to year-end and trading was thin. Tokyo

what steadier dollar and bargain hunting for Wednesday's rally in London stocks. But they said the big test would come next Monday after the New Year break.

West German shares also firmed on Wednesday but in Frankfurt, as elsewhere, volume was thin because of the year-end holiday. And several dealers were gloomy about 1988.

"Share prices remain tied to the dollar and prospects for a substantial dollar recovery are slim," one said.

French shares were mixed. The 50-share bourse indicator was down 0.3 per cent in early Paris business. Swiss shares were steady in Zurich. Madrid and Stockholm were slightly higher and Amsterdam was mixed.

The price of an ounce of gold was fixed in the London market on Wednesday morning at \$486.90 an ounce, barely changed from \$486.75 at Tuesday's London close. The pound sterling was worth £1.8557 at 1200 GMT, down from 1.8585 on Tuesday night.

has been closed since Monday and is not due to reopen until next Monday. It was the final day of 1987 trading in West Germany, Switzerland, The Netherlands and Spain. All major markets will be closed on Friday.

British shares rallied after a dramatic fall on Tuesday when the London exchange reopened after a long Christmas break and confidence was shaken by the way the dollar was sliding.

Dollar remains at centre of world trade

Meanwhile, despite the higher value of the yen and the Deutschmark, the dollar remains at the centre of world trade.

When, as this week, India wants phosphate from Jordan, Bulgaria needs an extra 100,000 tonnes of sugar or Japan buys oil from Iran, they all pay with dol-

Soviet banks make foreign loans in dollars. African black market shoppers spend them. The wealth of people from Kyoto to Kinshasa depends on the dollar's worth.

Economists say this way of

It may be difficult to make the actual exchange, but there are 5.33 Albanian leks to the dollar.

Meanwhile, the values of most of Latin American currencies, along with Canada's dollar and several Asian currencies, are linked closely to the dollar.

doing business will probably continue, at least for some time, even though the dollar has halved in value against other leading currencies since 1985 because of America's economic problems.

It hit historic lows this week. But, said Ms. Evelyn Brodie, an economist at merchant bankers Morgan Grenfell and Co. in London: "We're learning to live with it."

Sudanese cotton is bought and sold in the British port of Liverpool in dollars. Indonesians sell rubber in Jakarta in dollars. Futures contracts in spruce, pine and fir lumber from Canada's timber-producing regions trade in Montreal in dollars. So in other markets do oil, wheat, sugar and metals from aluminium to zinc.

Nobody wants the dollar to slide any more, or at least

The dollar is a keystone of the global economy, the so-called reserve currency in which, ultimately, the price of just about everything is fixed.

It is a matter of convenience, convention and faith — and, Ms. Brodie explained, because "nobody else really wants their currency to do the job."

Having a reserve currency constrains a government, as Britain

found out when sterling filled such a role. It means, as the United States is discovering now, that other countries demand, and get, a say in its monetary policy.

Once a product moves across a border anywhere in the world, the value of the dollar affects the income its maker earns and the price its buyer pays.

Goods or services only change hands when both buyer and seller agree on their worth. And that is made a lot easier when they have a common measure of that worth.

In Beirut, youngsters wear T-Shirts saying: "I love you, dollar."

Their parents, worried that Lebanon's soaring inflation will continue to eat away the value of their earnings in Lebanese liras, race to change their pay-cheques into dollars. Later, they buy their own currency with the proceeds. "My theory on changing my salary into dollars has never let me down," said Mr. Anwar Rachid, 32, an engineer.

The Soviet Union, oil analysts

say, is keenly aware of the dollar price of oil when it arranges a sale of its own crude to its East Bloc allies.

Swiss bankers sell bars of gold bullion for dollars, not Swiss francs. Mexico pays off its creditors in dollars.

Either way, a weak dollar is bad for business and could be bad news for workers throughout Europe and Asia, which is why European and Asian leaders want an end to the dollar's slide.

The question is, whether America does as well.

Mexico swaps debt for special U.S. bonds

MEXICO CITY (AP) — The government said Tuesday it will buy up to \$10 billion in special U.S. bonds as part of an innovative scheme that could slice its \$105 billion foreign debt by almost one-fifth.

The programme involves swapping some of the \$80 billion the government owes foreign commercial bankers for new 20-year bonds issued by the government.

By retiring the bank loans, the government would be able to trim its foreign debt, the second highest in the developing world after Brazil, and its annual interest charges on that debt.

"The operation would help Mexico reduce the weight of its foreign debt by means of a significant reduction of its amount and, consequently, the payment of the service on the same," said a Mexican treasury department statement.

"The magnitude of the benefits for our country would depend on

the relation of the exchange of the old debt for the new bonds," it said.

Mexico is to pay \$8-\$9 billion in interest charges on the debt this year, an amount that government officials say sorely limits economic development.

In Washington, the U.S. Treasury Department said Mexico is expected to purchase the special securities in early 1988 and use the bonds as collateral. "The issuance of this special U.S. treas-

ury security, which is expected to raise up to \$2 billion in cash (for the United States), will ... be on terms that are beneficial both to the United States and Mexico," said the U.S. statement.

Mexico said that at an interest rate of 8.75 per cent, the government could pay \$1.87 billion to buy 20-year zero-coupon bonds from the United States. Zero-coupon bonds pay no interest but are issued at a sharp discount of their face value.

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midday on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets Wednesday.

| | | |
|-------------------|---------------|------------------|
| One Sterling | 1.8555/65 | U.S. dollars |
| One U.S. dollar | 1.3050/60 | Canadian dollar |
| | 1.5960/70 | Deutschmarks |
| | 1.7956/66 | Dutch guilders |
| | 1.2930/45 | Swiss francs |
| | 33.45/50 | Belgian francs |
| | 5.4080/4130 | French francs |
| | 1177/1179 | Italian lire |
| | 123.55/65 | Japanese yen |
| | 5.8360/8410 | Swedish crowns |
| | 6.2750/2800 | Norwegian crowns |
| | 6.1600/50 | Danish crowns |
| One ounce of gold | 486.90/487.40 | U.S. dollars |

LONDON STOCK MARKET

LONDON (R) — U.K. shares stood firm in late trading with Wednesday morning's rally fuelled by a higher opening on Wall Street Wednesday afternoon, dealers said.

The dollar's new found steadiness and bargain hunting after Monday's shakeout helped drive prices higher throughout the day, but volume was seasonally light with a modest 222 million shares traded by 1500 GMT. At 1530 GMT the FTSE 100 share index was up 27.0 points at 1,757.3.

Continued activity on the takeover front added to Wednesday's firmer trend, with the new B.P. shares the most active amid speculation that Kuwait was raising its stake in the company.

Kuwait on Wednesday confirmed it had raised its stake in B.P. to 17.40 per cent from 17.07 per cent. The new B.P. shares were steady at Tuesday, closing of 70p while the old were up 7p to 257.

The battle for Britoil continued with the U.S. company Atlantic Richfield (ARCO) again bidding for Britoil shares with news it had raised its stake in the U.K. oil exploration company to 21.1 per cent from 20.4 per cent.

B.P. has made a £2.27 billion, 450p per share, offer for all of Britoil, while Atlantic Richfield is proposing to acquire a 49.9 per cent stake in the company. Britoil shares were up 3p at 437½p.

YOUR DAILY HOROSCOPE
From the Carroll Rieger Institute

FORECAST FOR THURSDAY, DECEMBER 31, 1987

GENERAL TENDENCIES: Don't allow the mysterious nature of a new year to unfold make you nervous or apprehensive. Rather, look forward to the prospect of a clean slate and make some constructive plans.

ARIES (Mar. 21 to Apr. 19) Look carefully at your financial status and you'll see there's a way you can easily improve it. Put your home in order for socializing tonight.

TAURUS (Apr. 20 to May 20) Do whatever will improve your health and appearance this morning. Be sure you get any important appointments set up early today.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 21) Talk over with your mate how to be more successful in the new year. Go out on the town tonight and have a wonderful time together.

MOON CHILDREN (June 22 to Jul. 21) Your close friends can help you make your social life more interesting and profitable. Start working on your goals now.

LEO (Jul. 22 to Aug. 21) Budget your time carefully today so that you'll have time for personal and recreational matters. Get together with your best friends tonight.

VIRGO (Aug. 22 to Sept. 22) You'll have an excellent opportuni-

ty to make some highly beneficial business contacts today. Use both your intellect and your charm.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22) Get busy at fulfilling any promises you have made, especially those made to your mate. Much care in motion is necessary at this time.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21) Get in touch with your allies before noon, and finalize any plans you have on the drawing board. Have a romantic evening with your mate.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) You can accomplish much this morning by simply applying yourself seriously. Try to cooperate more with your co-workers.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 20) Do what you can to help your kin achieve their goals today, but reserve some time for yourself. Make plans for the New Year.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 to Feb. 18) Do whatever is necessary to improve the conditions at home, but postpone for a good time tonight. Be supportive of loyal associates.

PISCES (Feb. 19 to Mar. 20) Attend to any important messages this morning. Celebrate the new year in your home and make a New Year's resolution.

FORECAST FOR FRIDAY, JANUARY 1, 1968

GENERAL TENDENCIES: A light and happy atmosphere in the air should encourage you to start the New Year with an optimistic attitude. Make only those New Year's resolutions which are constructive and accomplishable.

ARIES (Mar. 21 to Apr. 19) Listen carefully to suggestions made by friends. Make notes of your ambitions, and also of routines which need improvement.

Taurus (Apr. 20 to May 20) If someone nearby has good financial experience, ask for and follow this person's advice. Find more modern means of advancing in business.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 21) Enjoy a gathering of friends tonight, and make plans for future get-togethers. These can be very interesting and profitable.

MOON CHILDREN (June 22 to Jul. 21) Be with the one you love all day long. Do not let each other's happiness slip away. Avoid associating with strangers you know nothing about.

LEO (Jul. 22 to Aug. 21) This is a fine day for being gregarious and enjoying the company of your best friends. The best way to gain your wishes is to state them clearly.

VIRGO (Aug. 22 to Sept. 22) Get out socially, perhaps to a civic function, and meet with persons who may be able to assist you materially in the days ahead.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22) If you've been thinking about a short trip with a friend, this is a good day to plan it. A new situation will arise which can benefit you greatly.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21) This is an ideal day to get your responsibilities straightened out so you can handle them more easily. Invite some good friends in for dinner.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) Be alert to new opportunities in the business world. This is also a good time to make new agreements or to revise an old ones.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 20) A quiet talk with a co-worker can reveal much information which you were not aware of. Although it's a holiday, don't meet your friends.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 to Feb. 19) You are highly creative today, and can use this ability to make your ideas work more successfully. Enjoy the company of your mate.

PISCES (Feb. 20 to Mar. 20) This is a fine day to improve your relationship with your family. This would also be a good time to entertain guests or to have a picnic.

Turkish budget deficit falls

ANKARA (R) — Turkey announced a sharp fall in its budget deficit on Wednesday while parliament approved a government spending increase which bankers said was intended to boost growth.

The 1988 first quarter budget provided for expenditure of 5.875 billion lira (\$5.8 billion), a 57 per cent rise on the 1987 average. "This is no austerity budget," said one foreign banker in Istanbul. Turkey's commercial centre.

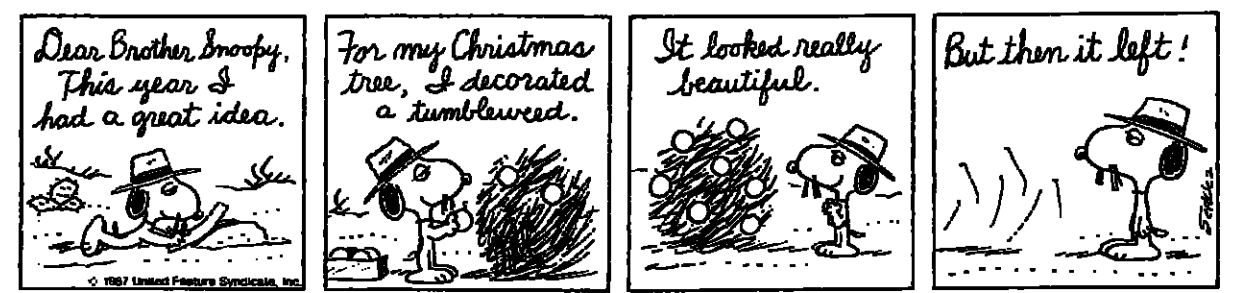
Finance and Customs Minister Ahmet Kuruicbe Alptemocin told parliament the budget deficit fell to 893 billion lira (\$890 million) in the first 11 months of 1987.

The deficit for the first 10 months was 1,118 billion lira (\$1.1 billion), compared with a target for the year of 931 billion lira (\$930 million). The 1987 spending target was 11,050 billion lira (\$11 billion).

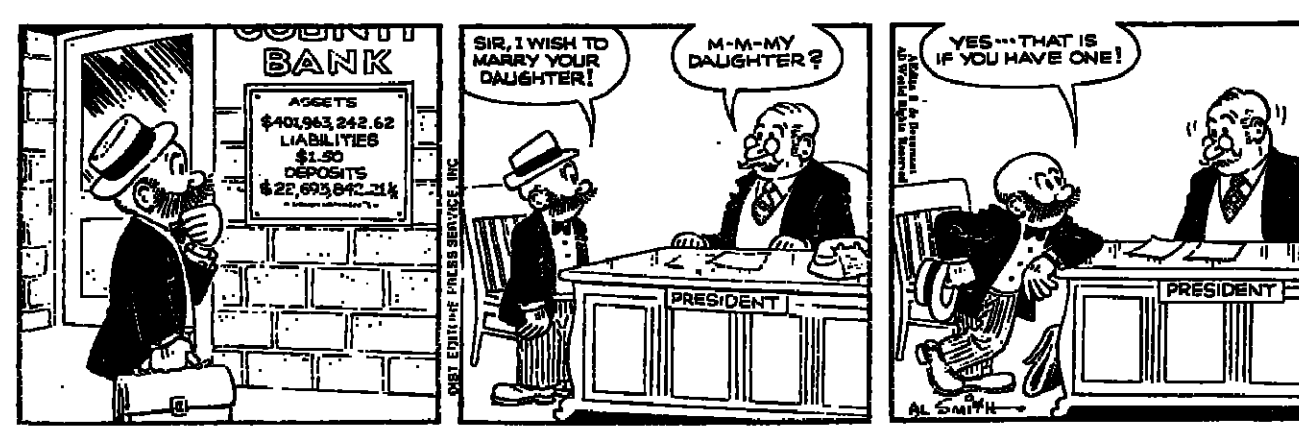
Bankers said the sharp cut in the deficit from October to November could be accounted for Turkey's tax system, under which the bulk of income tax is collected in the last months of the year.

They also said the spending increase in the first-quarter budget indicated that Prime Minister Turgut Ozal has postponed an expected attack on inflation.

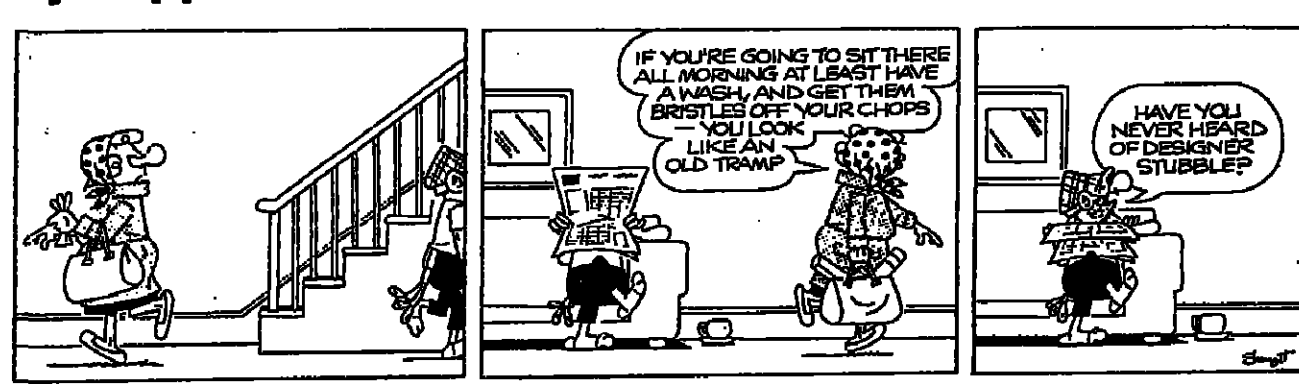
Peanuts



Mutt'n' Jeff



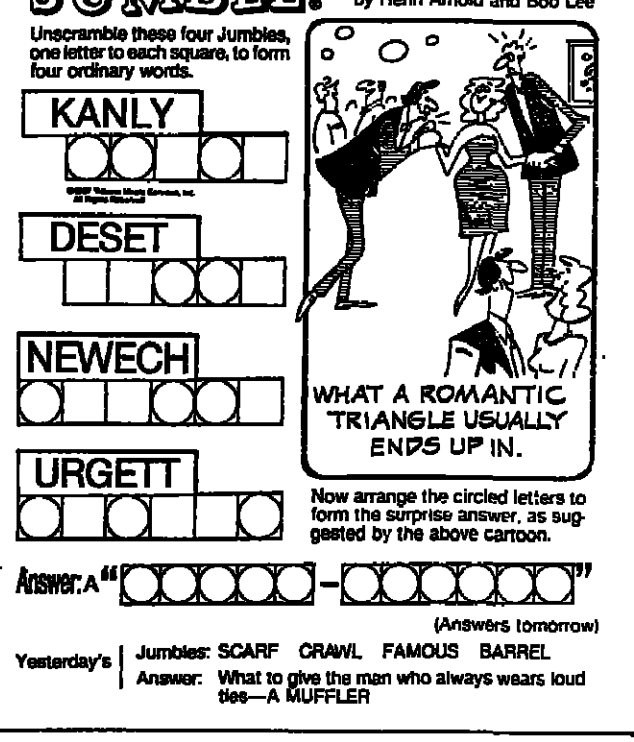
Andy Capp



THE BETTER HALF. By Harris



JUMBLE THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME
by Henri Arnold and Bob Lee



Ortega hints at concession over direct contra talks

MANAGUA (R) — President Daniel Ortega has offered a hint toward concessions that could break the deadlock in Nicaraguan ceasefire negotiations, although he still rules out direct talks with U.S.-backed rebels.

In talks with mediator Cardinal Miguel Obando Y Bravo on Tuesday, Mr. Ortega insisted that an American lawyer, Paul Reichler, and a West German politician, Hans-Jürgen Wischnewski, represent his government and that the next round of talks be held in Panama or Belize. Roman Catholic Church sources said.

They said Mr. Ortega stood by his refusal to meet contras face to face in the next round of peace talks, but added a new element that if the rebels accepted this, he would "listen to new initiatives" by Cardinal Obando.

This was seen as a hint that he might agree later to a proposal by both Cardinal Obando and the contras for talks including a representative of the government in another Central American country, the sources said.

Under a regional peace plan drawn up by Costa Rican President Oscar Arias and signed by Mr. Ortega and other Central American leaders last August, signatory governments pledged to negotiate ceasefires with guerrilla movements.

A spokeswoman for the contras said later they wanted to meet with Cardinal Obando before responding to Mr. Ortega's latest proposal.

"We have to talk with Cardinal Miguel Obando Y Bravo before deciding our position," contra spokeswoman Adela Icaza said by telephone from a Central American nation she did not want to identify.

Cardinal Obando had said earlier that if the rebels accepted Mr. Ortega's proposal, he would suggest a later round of direct talks between the government and the contras in a Central American country.

The church sources said they were optimistic that the rebels would accept Mr. Ortega's latest proposal, because of his apparent concession.

"They will probably accept a new round in Panama or Belize with the American and German, at which nothing would happen except agreement for a future, direct dialogue in or closer to Nicaragua," one churchman close to Cardinal Obando stated.

Cardinal Obando tried to mediate a round of indirect talks in Santo Domingo, capital of the Dominican Republic, just before Christmas. The negotiations collapsed when the rebels refused to meet Reichler and Wischnewski and insisted on direct talks with at least one government representative.

Mr. Ortega said Tuesday he wants to arm virtually everyone in Nicaragua and is shopping for millions of rifles to use against the contra rebels.

Mr. Ortega rejected the idea of a New Year truce.

"We don't have this plan for 600,000 — but for 1 million or 3 million people to defend the country, disposed to take up arms," he said when asked about a recent statement by his brother, Defence Minister Humberto Ortega, that Nicaragua was doubling its military force to 600,000.

Nicaragua, which is about the size of Greece, has a population of about 3.2 million.

"We are negotiating with everyone to obtain rifles," the president added.

The Sandinista government has received its arms from the Soviet Bloc since it came to power following the overthrow of rightist President Anastasio Somoza in 1979.

6 more die in South African violence

JOHANNESBURG (R) — Six South Africans, including a 12-year-old boy, have died as Natal province prepared to usher in the New Year with relentless black-against-black violence.

A police bulletin on Wednesday said the boy, whose body was found with stab wounds, was among four persons killed on Tuesday in townships around the provincial capital, Pietermaritzburg, where fighting has claimed 260 lives this year.

Bloodshed, which has intensified since Christmas Eve, has defied attempts to bring peace between the United Democratic Front (UDF), a large anti-apartheid coalition, and the Zulu tribe's Inkatha Organisation.

Police said the boy was killed at Slangspruit township, where the bodies of two men, aged 28 and 23, were also discovered. One was stabbed while the other was shot.

Another man was found dead at Taylor's Halt in the same area, where the UDF and Inkatha are vying for influence.

At Chesterville township near the port of Durban, police said a 21-year-old black man was shot, stabbed and then dragged to his house by a mob that threw petrol and a mattress over him, killing him in a blaze.

In faction fights among clans near Scottburgh, apparently motivated by personal rather than political differences, a man was killed when two groups assaulted each other with stones and an assortment of home-made weapons, police reported.

White business leaders in Pietermaritzburg are due to resume mediation efforts in the New Year between the UDF and Inkatha, which share opposition to apartheid but are divided over tactics in the fight against race discrimination.

N. Ireland death toll highest for five years

BELFAST (R) — Ninety-three people have been killed this year in the Northern Ireland conflict, making 1987 the bloodiest for five years, a police spokesman said on Wednesday.

The Irish Republican Army (IRA), fighting to oust the British from Northern Ireland, has claimed responsibility for almost 60 of the killings. Eleven of its victims died when an IRA bomb ripped through a war memorial ceremony in Enniskillen.

The IRA, internationally condemned for last month's Enniskillen massacre, also lost eight of its guerrillas on one night in May when they were caught by British commandos as they tried to attack a police station in the village of Loughall.

Gerry Adams, president of the IRA's political wing, Sinn Féin, said in a New Year message published on Wednesday that the sense of grief in the Republican

movement after the Loughall incident was "matched only by the feeling of genuine regret and sorrow which followed the tragedy in Enniskillen."

Sinn Féin's support at the polls dipped this year in both British and Irish elections but Mr. Adams said that, despite attempts in 1987 to "isolate and marginalise" Sinn Féin, the party would not go away.

The police spokesman, reviewing the statistics from Northern Ireland's sectarian and political conflict, said the death toll of 93 was the worst since the 1982 total of 97.

Since Northern Ireland's Roman Catholic minority began a civil rights campaign in 1969 for better housing, education and jobs, 2,618 people have been killed in one of the 20th century's longest-running guerrilla conflicts. The worst year was 1972 with 467 deaths.

INF treaty saves U.S. \$87.5m

WASHINGTON (AP) — The U.S.-Soviet treaty eliminating medium-range nuclear missiles also eliminates the need for planned missile-launching sites in Western Europe, saving the United States millions of dollars, Congress decided in its closing 1987 sessions.

Apparently confident the treaty would win Senate ratification, Congress decided against funding construction of the planned new launching sites, cutting the \$87.5-million item from the 1988 U.S. military construction budget for Europe.

"These funds are denied in view of the intermediate nuclear forces (INF) agreement which will negate the need for these facilities once it is ratified," said the report of the Senate-House Conference Committee that finalized the comprehensive \$600-billion 1988 spending programme on Dec. 21.

President Ronald Reagan signed the record-size appropriations measure into law on Dec. 22, just two weeks after he and Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev signed the INF treaty, centerpiece of their Washington summit.

The full details of Congress' decisions were issued Tuesday in 1,200 pages of fine print covering

the complex legislation funding the government through next Sept. 30.

The report showed that Congress also ordered withholding of funds earlier appropriated but not yet spent on deployment of cruise and Pershing missiles in Europe "pending the outcome of the INF agreement," and asked the Pentagon to report to Congress by July 1 how it intends to use the European missile sites.

Western countries affected by elimination of medium- and short-range U.S. nuclear missiles are Belgium, Britain, Italy, The Netherlands and West Germany. U.S. ratification of the treaty requires a two-thirds vote of the Senate, where leaders plan to take it up in early 1988.

Hope for eased tensions in Central America prompted Congress to save more money. It deleted \$4.1 million sought by the Defense Department to build barracks and other facilities at Palmarola Air Base in Honduras.

The Conference Committee said in its report that it "deferred this project mainly in view of the recent peace proposal initiated by President (Oscar) Arias of Costa Rica," who was awarded the 1987 Nobel Peace Prize for his efforts to defuse confrontation in Central America.

Poll: Mitterrand favoured for 2nd term

PARIS (R) — President Francois Mitterrand would easily win a second term of office if he ran now in a French presidential election, according to a December public opinion poll.

The poll, to be published Thursday in the weekly magazine Paris-Match, showed the Socialist president increasing his edge to 53.5 per cent over the other frontrunner, the maverick centrist politician Raymond Barre, with 46.5 per cent.

In a similar survey of just under 1,000 people carried out in November, Mr. Mitterrand and

Mr. Barre were neck and neck at 50 per cent each.

Mr. Mitterrand has refused to say whether he will run for a second term in the presidential elections scheduled for next May.

The poll suggested Mr. Mitterrand would also beat conservative Prime Minister Jacques Chirac, with 55 per cent of those questioned, saying they would vote for the president against 45 per cent for the prime minister.

But Paris-Match said if Mr. Mitterrand dropped out of the race, his Socialist colleague Michel Rocard would win an

election against Mr. Chirac but would lose against Mr. Barre, a former prime minister.

The poll suggested Mr. Rocard would win 52 per cent of votes compared to 48 per cent for Mr. Chirac, but only 44 per cent compared to 56 per cent for Mr. Barre.

Extreme right-wing presidential candidate Jean-Marie Le Pen slipped in the popularity polls in December to eight per cent against nine per cent in November. Communist candidate Andre Lajoinie gained a point to six per

Ershad to hold elections despite boycott threats

DHAKA (R) — President Hosain Mohammad Ershad has said fresh elections in Bangladesh will take place even if the main opposition groups boycott the polls.

"Boycott by big parties like the Awami League or the Bangladesh Nationalist Party will not hinder polls. The country has

more than 100 political parties," he told officials on Tuesday.

The two named parties, led by General Ershad's arch rivals Sheikh Hasina and Begum Khaleda Zia, respectively, are the key factors in a continuing campaign by 21 opposition parties to topple him by strikes and demonstrations.

Sri Lankan extremists attack police station, escape with arms

COLOMBO, Sri Lanka (AP) — Sinhalese extremists on Wednesday raided a police station in southern Sri Lanka, seriously injured two policemen and escaped with arms and ammunition, a senior police official reported.

More than 40 Sinhalese militants, suspected of belonging to the outlawed People's Liberation Front (PLF), came in two vans to the Kahawatta Police Station, about 90 kilometres south east of Colombo, said the police official, who spoke on condition of not being identified.

The assailants stole eight automatic rifles, three submachine guns and a large quantity of explosives, the official said.

One attacker first entered the police station on the pretext of making a complaint and began an argument with policemen. The others forced their way in later and opened fire, the official said.

Two policemen were injured in the attack. The police official blamed the raid on the People's Liberation Front, which frequently has attacked army and police camps to steal arms and explosives.

U.S. expels 2 Chinese diplomats for spying

WASHINGTON (AP) — Two Chinese diplomats were expelled from the United States last week after being arrested by the FBI on suspicion of espionage, according to a published report Wednesday.

The Washington Times said the men were arrested on Dec. 21 after one of them, an assistant military attaché at the Chinese embassy, received what he thought were classified National Security Agency documents.

"On Dec. 22, we asked the Chinese embassy to arrange the

departures of two Chinese diplomats," because the two "were engaging in activities incompatible with their diplomatic status," the newspaper quoted an unidentified State Department official as saying Tuesday.

"We understand they have since left the United States," the State Department official was quoted as saying.

An unidentified Chinese embassy spokesman told the newspaper, "I don't know about that."

U.S. space programme hit by two new setbacks

WASHINGTON (Agencies) — The faltering U.S. space programme has been dealt two new blows by a delay in the launch of its space shuttle and a major accident at a leading maker of rocket engines.

The twin setbacks on Tuesday, a day when the Soviet Union celebrated a new milestone in the sky, involved Morton Thiokol Inc., a top aerospace contractor which is heavily involved in both the space effort and the U.S. defence programme.

The National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) indefinitely delayed the next shuttle launch when a crucial component of the rocket motor failed during a test last week.

A launch of the shuttle Discovery had been tentatively set for June 2.

The space agency's announcement and a fire which killed five people during work on an MX intercontinental ballistic missile, could not have been more badly timed for national prestige.

The two separate events coincided with a Soviet cosmonaut ending a record 326-day flight in space.

Cosmonaut Yuri Romanenko and two colleagues safely landed their Soyuz TM-3 space capsule in a storm on the steppes of Kazakhstan.

Their flight had been in preparation for a 30-month mission to Mars planned by the Soviet Union for early in the next century.

"It looks bad for the space programme though it probably looks a lot worse than it really is," John Pike, a space policy expert with the Federation of American Scientists, told Reuters.

The test was the second of four full-scale tests required for the redesigned space shuttle booster rocket before the U.S. shuttle programme can resume next year.

The firing of the 126-foot-long, 1.2 million pound rocket had initially been set for Dec. 19 but was postponed four days due to a problem with an ignition device. The testing was necessary because the rocket was redesigned after joints failed in the booster rockets of the shuttle Challenger in January last year, causing an explosion that killed all seven of its crewmembers.

Mr. Pike said that NASA had anticipated delays when it made up the Discovery schedule.

"It was just a question of whose problem was to take the blame," he said. The delay means the shuttle will never be used for the primary purpose for which it initially was designed, Mr. Pike added.

The shuttle was intended principally to carry into orbit a military spy satellite known as the KH-12.

"That's the reason we have the shuttle we have today. The irony is, as a result of this latest delay, the shuttle will never carry a KH-12," he said.

The spy satellite will instead be launched by Titan rockets from Vandenberg Air Force Base in California, Mr. Pike said.

NASA said it decided to put off the launch date after discovering that a chunk of a shuttle booster nozzle had apparently been blown away during a test of the rocket last Wednesday. The nozzle steers the shuttle during the first minutes of flight.

WEEKEND CROSSWORD

Edited by Herb Extension

ON THE DOUBLE
By Barbara J. Westley

ACROSS
1. Truck's transportation
2. Wretched one
3. Ropes
4. Sled
5. Sledge
6. Son of Seth
7. Fox's trap
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Diagrams: 21 x 31, by Francis Burton

ACROSS
1. Dry, as wine
2. Style
3. Actor
4. Farm structure
5. Anger
6. Paper
7. Gawk
8. Ulfur
9. Federal group
10. Entered
11. Horse god
12. Accused
13. — Males
14. Quail
15. "I saw — of
16. "Rabbit" (Lindbergh)
17. Advertiser
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Betty Ford back in hospital

RANCHO MIRAGE, California (AP) — Former first lady Betty Ford was rushed to Eisenhower Medical centre on Tuesday night, a Fire Department official said. Mrs. Ford, who has been recovering from quadruple coronary bypass surgery a month ago, was taken by Fire Department ambulance to the desert hospital at 8:13 p.m. local time (0413 GMT Wednesday), said Capt. Dan Proctor. "I guess apparently she was just having some bleeding from sutures," Proctor said, referring to her recent surgery. On Nov. 30, the wife of former President Gerald R. Ford returned to her California desert home in good condition, recovering from the six-hour operation. Mrs. Ford, who has survived breast cancer and drug and alcohol addiction, had to spend the Thanksgiving holiday last month in the hospital after a doctor cautioned that he wanted her to recuperate fully from the surgery before being released.

Rajiv Gandhi rescues whale in lagoon

NEW DELHI (R) — Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi, leading his gun-toting bodyguards splashing into an Indian Ocean coral lagoon on Wednesday, rescued a whale stranded in shallow waters, the Press Trust of India (PTI) reported. The news agency said Mr. Gandhi, vacationing in India's remote Lakshadweep Islands, spotted the bruised and bleeding whale floundering in the lagoon. The prime minister jumped into the green waters, and with the help of the bodyguards, pushed the whale into deeper waters as another larger whale watched from the edge of the lagoon.

World's oldest woman dies at 114

SWANSEA, Wales (AP) — The world's oldest person, Anna Eliza Williams, has died at the age of 114 years and 219 days, a spokesman for the Tuxedo Home for the Aged has said. Mrs. Williams died peacefully Sunday night at the home in Swansea, southern Wales, where she had lived for several years, said Hugh Gardener, assistant director of West Glamorgan Social Services. "She died really of old age," Gardener said. "She just sort of ran out of steam." According to the Guinness Book of Records, Mrs. Williams became the world's oldest living person when Mamie Keith of Libertyville, Illinois, died in September 1986 at age 113. "No other person has ever been able to prove such a great age with a birth certificate," the Guinness Book of Records said in a statement Tuesday. The oldest authenticated inhabitant of the world now becomes Mrs. Maren Topp of Norway who celebrated her 111th birthday last week. Mrs. Williams was born on June 2, 1873. During her lifetime she saw the invention of the typewriter, car, airplane, radio and television.

Thief killed in gun battle on train

PEKING (AP) — A railway detective shot dead a man carrying stolen arms in a gun battle aboard a moving train, the China Daily reported Tuesday. The daily said detective Tian Qian shot Li Maofeng through the head after Li had fired at Tian, wounding him in the leg. Li had also shot out windows in the train in an attempt to escape. No passengers were injured in the shootout, which took place Saturday on a train travelling from Zhanjiang in southern China's Guangdong province to Wuchang in Hubei province, central China. The report said Li stole weapons last Tuesday from an armoury of the People's Liberation Army in Guangxi autonomous region, southern China. He boarded the train bound for Hubei, his home province, on Friday. Two stolen pistols and 200 cartridges were recovered from the dead man.

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN
AND OMAR SHARIF
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JEWEL OF A DEFENSE

East-West vulnerable. South deals.

NORTH
♠ 5 4 2
♥ 8 4 3 2
♦ 3 9 6
♣ A K

WEST
♠ 9 3
♥ K Q
♦ Q 10 7 3 2
♣ Q 10 8 6

EAST
♠ A 7
♥ A 10 9
♦ K 8 5
♣ 9 7 5 4 3

SOUTH
♠ A K Q J 10 6
♥ J 7 5
♦ A 4
♣ A 2

The bidding: South West North East

1 ♠ Pass 2 ♠ Pass

4 ♠ Pass Pass Pass

Opening lead: King of ♠

Let's test your defensive logic.

As West, you should be able to conduct the defense just as if you were looking at all the cards, so we won't even suggest you cover the East and South hands.

North-South were employing a five-card major system, so North had no problem with his response. The spade game was reached in quick time.

You lead the king of hearts, which holds as partner signals with the ten. You continue with the

queen, which also wins. What now?

To defeat this contract, it looks like you will have to get three heart tricks and a diamond. If declarer has both the ace and king of diamonds, there is no hope, so you must play partner for one of those cards and attack diamonds. But how?

It is unlikely declarer can have less than solid spades and the ace of diamonds for his jump to game. Therefore, you must assume that partner has the king. If you shift to a low diamond, declarer will play the nine from dummy and capture partner's long with the ace, and by later leading up with any card and, in the fullness of time, your partner will come to the heart trick to which he is entitled.

South is no better off if he wins. Sooner or later he must concede a heart or a diamond in an attempt to set up the fulfilling trick, and partner will cash the high card in the other red suit to beat the contract.

Yes, by shifting to the queen of diamonds! Declarer is helpless—there is no way to combat this master stroke. If he ducks, you simply exit with any card and, in the fullness of time, your partner will come to the heart trick to which he is entitled.

South is no better off if he wins. Sooner or later he must concede a heart or a diamond in an attempt to set up the fulfilling trick, and partner will cash the high card in the other red suit to beat the contract.

SOLUTIONS OF
LAST WEEK'S PUZZLE

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